

A breathtaking but not dangerous rafting adventure in Mentougou District. Want to try?

Page 16



Yin Lichuan, a representative of the "floating" generation, has caused controversy with her first novel.

Page 9



A completely new version of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, *The King of Desire*, will make for an unusual Beijing evening.

Page 10



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China joins world in condemning terrorist outrage Jiang Calls Bush to Express Sympathy



Xinhua Photo

Chinese President Jiang Zemin and the US President George W. Bush Wednesday night exchanged views over the phone on terrorist attacks on New York and Washington DC.

Bush thanked Jiang for his message of sympathy and condolences over the terrorist attacks that took place in the United States. Bush said that international terrorism is a shared threat to world peace, and he looked forward to working together with Jiang and other leaders of the international community to strengthen cooperation in cracking down on international terrorism.

The US President hoped his country and China would strengthen cooperation within the Security Council of the United Nations in this regard. Jiang said the attacks have not only brought about a disaster to the US people, but also a challenge to the world's people who cherish a sincere desire for peace.

The Chinese people, like Americans, strongly condemn the shocking terrorist activities. Jiang once again expressed deep sympathy for the US government, people and family members of the victims, and heartfelt condolences to the deceased, on behalf of the Chinese government and people.

He said that China is deeply concerned about the progress of the rescue work, and is ready to offer all necessary assistance.

He voiced his belief that under the leadership of President Bush, the US people would overcome the current difficulties, handle the remaining problems and resume the social and orderly life as soon as possible. He said that China is ready to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with the US and the international community in combating all manner of terrorist violence.

Jiang also hoped that the foreign ministers and the permanent missions to the United Nations of the two countries would strengthen consultation and cooperation in this regard. Jiang also expressed grave concern for the safety of staff of Chinese institutions, Chinese students, overseas Chinese, and Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan compatriots in the US.

The Chinese government has ordered the Chinese embassy and all consulates in the US, and the Chinese permanent mission to the United Nations to take immediate action and provide all necessary assistance to any Chinese compatriots who were injured in the attacks.

(Xinhua)

See *Terror Attacks America*, Page 2
See *World Unites in Horror*, Page 6

China Offers Assistance to Stranded Tourists

China will provide all necessary services to American tourists stranded in China due to flight cancellation.

According to a statement issued by China National Tourism Administration (CNTA) Wednesday, the national tourism industry stands by the side of all peace-loving people in the world and consistently opposes all forms of terrorism.

During this special period, both the central and local Chinese tourism administrations, as well as tourist agencies, will provide aid to visitors from all parts of the world.

Tourism promotes friendly communication among nations. The Chinese government and people are able ensure the safety of tourists in China, and welcomes tourists from all countries — especially the USA — to visit China, the CNTA statement noted.

(Xinhua)

Antiques Market Gets New Lick of Paint

By Shan Jinliang

The Panjiayuan Antiques Market is undergoing a 20-million yuan facelift into a 40% larger, seven-door, two parking-lot facility under enhanced management. Chaoyang District expects to develop the market into a leading force in the south of the city, a district official said.

Where there once was a large hangar, today visitors will see a 2-meter-high green separation net as the market undergoes a two-phase reconstruction process. The first phase will refurbish the arts and crafts shed. The paintings, galleries, arts and crafts shed have moved to the parking lot. A hall of ancient furniture replicas in the east of the stall area will remain open to customers. Work will be finished in about a month.

The second phase begins in October, and is scheduled for completion by the end of the year, said Han Keqin, an official from the market management office. Work includes a construction of a two-story business building, a groceries area and two parking lots. A circular building will contain arts and crafts, ancient furniture replicas in classical style.

The new 48.5-million square meter market, from Huawei Road in the west to the South Third Ring Road in the south, will park 350 cars, with benches and toilets also on the blueprint.

Construction will not hurt business, said Han, as the management will maintain a clean and convenient shopping environment in the temporary areas. Some stall holders voiced their worry that inefficient management in the temporary marketplace will make shopping inconvenient, as new visitors will not easily find a route through the upheavals of a building site.

Street Park Helps City Center Breathe Better

By Zhao Pu

The street used to be crammed with dangerous buildings and traffic jams. Now in its place is a widened road, plants, sculptures, relics and a park, the largest free-admittance street park in Beijing that opened to the public on Tuesday.

With a total length of 2.4 kilometers and a width of 29 meters, the 800-million-yuan, 40,000-square-meter Imperial City Park (Huangchenggen) runs through the center of the city forming a historical and cultural corridor from east Chang'an Avenue and ending at Ping'an Avenue.

In Chinese, Huangchenggen means "the root of the imperial city". The original site of the park, dating back to the early 15th century by the end of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), was the east wall of the Imperial City. Relics including the Dong'an Gate were preserved and renovated in the park.

Dongcheng District official Chen Ping said the green area would aid oxygen generation, dust prevention and noise reduction.



"Playing Chess" sculptures fascinate park visitors Photo by Gloom

Soros Arrives in Silence

By Tong Qing'an
/ Shan Jinliang

US financier George Soros slipped into Beijing on Wednesday in the aftermath of the American terrorism disaster.

Attending the International Forum — China and the World in the 21st Century sponsored by the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), shared his shock with Beijing Today, before expressing ideas about China and its financial system.

Soros said the terrorist attacks would slow the slumping US economy and have a negative impact on the rest of the world.

Asked how he liked the nickname "Financial Crocodile," Soros smiled and expressed his gratitude, saying this nickname was what made him famous.

But underneath the grin, he admitted he was not so happy about being made the scapegoat for the Asian financial crisis.

On his second visit to Beijing, Soros admitted he knew little about the capital. But he praised China's development.

China's financial system, Soros said, should be linked up with the world. Information communications was the Achilles heel of the Chinese economy, Soros said. Financial reform should enable communications to be more market-oriented. He urged more efforts addressed to the banking system's bad debt if China wished to attract more overseas investment.



Photo by Tong Qing'an

First Open-ended Fund Booked Out Fast

By Zhao Pu

Zhao Fugui, a 69-year-old retired citizen, became the first subscriber of the Hua'an Innovation Fund in the Beijing Branch of the Bank of the Communications on Tuesday.

The issuing of the Hua'an Innovation Fund, the first open-ended fund in China, kicked off on September 11 in the Bank of Communications in 13 cities around the country. The fund plans to gather 5 billion units, with total individual purchases limited to below 3 billion units.

"I waited outside the bank from 4pm yesterday," said Zhao excitedly after he had booked 5 reservation codes, "I'll spend 50,000 yuan on my first purchase." Nearly one thousand people were already queuing up outside the Beijing Branch of the bank before it opened at 9am on the first day of the issuing.

The individual investors were

supposed to first obtain reservation codes on September 11, with the formal purchase beginning the following day. 80% of the 480 million units distributed in the Beijing Branch of the bank were booked out in the first day of the issuing.

Most individual investors are cautious in their purchases. Though an individual purchase maximum was set at 300,000 units, the average purchase amount reached only 50,000 units according to sources from the bank.

"The prospect of the fund in the Chinese security market is still hard to foretell, but the development of the open-ended fund is certainly forming a new trend in the market," remarked Li Jiang, director of the Market Research & Development Dept. in the Beijing Branch of the Bank of Communications.

The organizational purchase will begin on September 19.



Individual investors queue up on Tuesday to subscribe to China's first open-ended fund — the Hua'an Innovation Fund
Photo by Zhuang Jian



Smoke billows out of the burning World Trade Center Towers in New York
Xinhua Photo

Terror Attacks America

Terrorists attacked New York and Washington on an unprecedented scale on the morning of September 11, destroying the twin towers of the World Trade Center and badly damaging the Pentagon.

In the first attack, a plane hit the north tower of the World Trade Center in Manhattan around 8:45 (eastern time), followed by another plane into the second tower about 20 minutes later. Both towers collapsed, no figure of fatalities or casualties were available. An average 15,000 persons, including tourists, usually occupy the towers.

American Airlines confirmed that it lost two planes in "tragic accidents". Flight 11 from Boston with 81 passengers and 11 crew aboard and Flight 77 from Washington Dulles airport with 58 passengers

and 6 crew aboard. Both planes were en route to Los Angeles.

About an hour later, a plane crashed into the Pentagon, part of which later collapsed.

United Airlines Flight 93 airliner headed from Newark, New Jersey to San Francisco and crashed near Somerset, Pennsylvania. Police said initial reports indicated no survivors. It was not known if this was connected to the attacks. United also said it was "deeply concerned" about Flight 175 from Boston to Los Angeles.

The Pentagon, the White House, the State Department, the Justice Department, the Capitol, the CIA and all other government buildings in Washington were evacuated.

In the first ever national grounding of aircraft, all flights

nationwide have been held at their departure airports. All international flights were diverted to Canada.

Israel has evacuated all its missions around the world.

President George W. Bush canceled an appearance in Florida to return to Washington, calling the crashes "apparent terrorists attacks" and "a national tragedy."

The Sears Tower in Chicago and the United Nations in New York were both evacuated.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta was evacuated. CDC was preparing bioterrorism teams in case they became necessary.

The New York Port authority said it had closed all bridges and tunnels into the city. U.S. stock markets were closed after the New York attacks.

U.S. in Efforts Toward Coalition Against Terrorism

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said Wednesday in Washington that he and President George W. Bush were working hard to build up an international coalition against all forms of terrorism.

"This will be a major priority of the administration, and I can assure you it will therefore be a major priority of the State Department," Powell told a press conference.

As regards the National Security Council meeting convened by Bush at the White House earlier in the day, Powell said Bush and his cabinet members had reviewed all occurrences and begun planning what Washington would do in the future.

He vowed that his country will bring these perpetrators not only to justice but to punishment.

White House Seeks 20 Billion Dollars to Rebuild

President George W. Bush's administration Wednesday asked the U.S. Congress to set aside 20 billion U.S. dollars for rescue efforts, repairs and anti-terrorism measures following the Tuesday terrorist attacks in Washington and New York.

White House budget office spokesman Christopher Ullman said that the administration would work with all parties to get the emergency funds in place as soon as possible.

The funds could enable Bush to counter and prosecute domestic and international terrorists, boost transportation security, rebuild the damaged Pentagon and clean up the debris of New York's two World Trade Center towers.

Insured Losses of World Trade Center to Be Shared by Global System

Insurance losses from Tuesday's terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York will be shared throughout the worldwide insurance and reinsurance systems and not be borne by any single company, the Insurance Information Institute (III) said Wednesday in Los Angeles.

"The global insurance system has the financial strength to handle the losses," said an III official, a primary U.S. insurance information source.

According to the organization, insurance coverage on large risks such as the World Trade Center and airlines are traditionally insured by a number of insurance companies, which in turn share their portion of the risk with reinsurance companies.

(Xinhua)



Part of the Pentagon collapsed after terrorist attack
Xinhua Photo

China to Build First Research Station in North Pole

An expedition and research team of scientists and journalists will start the construction of China's first scientific expedition and research station in the North Pole in Norway's Svalbard archipelago at the end of September, sources said last Friday.

Gao Dengyi, the team leader and scientist from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, said that the upcoming expedition would lead to a three-year comprehensive scientific research project on the climate, environment, resources and life forms in the North Pole area.

The facility, China Yilite-Mornring Arctic Scientific Expedition and Research Station, will provide Chinese scientists support in accommodation, scientific inspection and communication, Gao said.

The Arctic is a key area influencing global climate, and particularly that of China, and of great interest to Chinese scientist, said Gao. The China Scientific Exploration Association will send the team to gather information on atmosphere, sea, ice and snow, and earth in the Arctic region so as to lay a solid foundation for the future construction of a permanent scientific research station there.

Chinese scientists started their expedition efforts to the North Pole area in the early 1990s, and have organized 10 expedition and research tours to the region so far. (Xinhua)

University Students Welcomed to the Army

By Wang Yanyan

The Revised Regulations on Recruitment Affairs, promulgated on September 9, say that current students in universities can be recruited into the army, if they are willing and meet the standard of the armed forces. The universities in which they are studying must keep open their status as students. After leaving the army, they should be permitted to return to university and continue their education.

The regulation, signed by both Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji and Chairman of the Central Military Commission Jiang Zemin, aims at improving the whole quality of the army in order to inspire the modernization of national security and armed forces. The regulations include revisions, supplements and fine-tuning of 22 articles of the previous regulations on Recruitment Affairs, which had been in force since October 1985 and were considered unfit to meet the demands of today's China.

Longest Expressway Opens Up Country

By Liang Qi / Wang Yanyan

The 70 km Badaling (Eight Thoroughfare Peaks) Expressway, consisting of a main road and connecting road, was fully opened on September 8, although it was due for completion a month later. The Badaling Expressway is the longest road radiating from Beijing as well as a green belt passage with an investment of 490 million RMB. It is a vital part of the National Road from Dandong in the northeast to Lhasa in the west, and is the major route to the northwest.

The first and the second phase of the project began in 1994 and ended in 1996 and 1998 respectively. This is the third phase, which started in November last year. The newly completed Badaling Expressway provides a convenient passageway to scenic spots, such as the Great Wall at Badaling, the Ming Tombs, Juyongguan (Dwelling-in-Harmony Pass), Longqingxia, Kangxi Plain, just to name a few.

The main road is 8.11 km long and 28 m wide with 4 lanes in both directions. The speed limit is between 100 k/h and 120k/h.

According to the State Bureau of Commodity Prices, the toll charges are calculated according to the length of each journey. Fees for light, medium, giant and super-heavy sized vehicles per kilometer are 0.5, 1, 1.5, and 2 yuan respectively.

China Telecom May Split

By Su Peng

China Telecom, the biggest telecommunications company in China may finally be separated in October, according to a message from Morgan Stanley, the company picked by China Telecom to be underwriter for its IPO.

At the beginning of this year, the State Council decided to break the company down into smaller segments. Morgan Stanley reveals that China Telecom will be downsized in two possible ways: "horizontal cut" or "vertical cut".

By "horizontal cut", the company may be split into 3 segments: long-distance call service, local phone service and data service.

"Vertical cut" means a geographical separation, and this may lead China Telecom to divide into two terrain groups: northern parts and southern parts. The northern parts may be reconstructed and absorbed by China Netcom Co. Thus China Telecom will only be able to exist in the south of China.

However, the exact procedure is as yet unknown.

Besides facing the fate of being split, China Telecom is still in an embarrassing predicament. China Telecom's revenue growth slowed down to 5%, a 13% reduction compared with the same period of last year.

Zhidong to Rise Again

By Su Peng

Wang Zhidong, former CEO of Sina.com is setting up his own new company.

Wang reveals that the new company will still be based on the Internet, with software development as a weighted business. "The orientation of the company is a production company, or a service company," said Wang. Now the company only has 2 employees, including Wang himself. "The present company is only a preparatory one, we plan to expand ourselves by share-holding or merging with others," said Wang.

Wang Zhidong left Sina.com on June 3rd for "personal reasons" according to official wording, while many believe the real reason is due to a strong divergence of opinion on the board of Sina.com. After three months' silence, Wang's return is still a great focus of attention since many people treated him as a hero of the Internet age.



Yin Guangxia has fallen 30% until Wednesday Photo by Chen Shuyi

Yin Guang Xia Resumes Trading

By Jason Young

After a month's suspension, shares of Yin Guang Xia finally resumed trading this Monday.

Shares dropped 10% from 30.79 yuan to 27.71 yuan. There are over 1 million shares still to sell on that day. Analysts estimate that the price will keep falling for several days.

The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) finished its investigation last week on the case of Yin Guang Xia providing false financial statements in 1999 and 2000. Managers on the board were arrested for taking charge of the fraud.

Koufujia Restaurant Donates 2 Million

By Yang Xiao

Beijing's well-known restaurant Koufujia donated 2 million yuan to set up an education fund for 10 elementary schools just before September 10, China's 17th Teacher's Day, near the Temple of the Moon.

Koufujia's speciality is hot-pot. It started up its business in 1993. Over the following 8 years, it has opened over 30 restaurants in the country.

This time Koufujia donated 2 million yuan for the fund. The yearly interest will be awarded to talented students in the schools.

By Yang Xiao

Ren Zhiqiang, president of Hua Yuan Property Co. (HYP), has had the intention to leave his parent company China Resources for several months. The media received hints to this effect one month ago. But the announcement of a split at 3 o'clock on September 5 by Ren still startled the world of real estate.

Hua Yuan Group and 4 other related companies passed their 277 million shares of HYP to China Resources. At the same time Hua Yuan Group withdrew its brand "HYP". Ren will be the new company's GM. The company will develop 400,000 to 800,000 square meters within 3 years. China Resources's HYP will change its name and take charge of former HYP's debts, claims, all real estate projects, and a 8000 plot of land.

Although HYP finally chose to split, its development has been even and rapid over 7 years.

7 years of co-operation

HYP is a state-owned-enterprise founded in 1987. It is a subsidiary company of Xicheng District government. So the company has priority in landing better contracts in downtown areas.

From the beginning, Ren Zhiqiang was the General Manager.

Ren's salary was as high as 7 million yuan per year and he became the richest manager in China according to a newspaper in the field.

The Real estate market in Beijing developed rapidly in the 1990s, so HYP quickly made a fortune and Ren became a celebrity.

From 1993 HYP began to make capital games to enlarge its business. It founded a joint venture in the Virgin Islands. The major shareholder is one of China Resource's subsidiaries that owns 70% of the total. HYP only possesses 18%.

China Resources is one of the largest Chinese backed compa-

Real Estate Giant Broken up



"I will stick to the brand Hua Yuan after the divide," says Ren Zhiqiang

Photos by Chung/Cui Hao

nies in Hong Kong. The subsidiary was listed on the Hong Kong Stock Market in 1996. The total HK\$ 800 million collection was put into HYP. Therefore it is the first real estate companies to raise money abroad.

Now HYP has a total capital of 7.5 billion yuan and net capital of 3.4 billion yuan. It has built structures of over 1 million square meters. It seems that HYP had a positive relationship with China Resources until the acquisition of Vanke.

"I don't wanna play any more"

Ren Zhiqiang decided to divide just after China Resources acquired another Chinese real estate giant Vanke.

China Resources bought 15.08% shares of Vanke two years ago. Vanke has a powerful presence in major cities including Shenzhen, Shanghai, and Beijing. China Resources wants HYP's base fixed in Beijing, whereas Vanke is developing in other cities. But HYP doesn't want to give up other markets outside Beijing. Ren said, "In the group, both HYP and Vanke lost their brands as well as the room for development. China Resources is keen for the two companies to integrate. In that case, I have to withdraw my brand."

The divide means Ren Zhiqiang has given up his all he created during these 8 years. But critics do not think he is the loser. One expert said, "Ren has got a clean slate for HYP and himself. Everyone believes his ability."

999's 2.5 Bn Hole

By Shan Jinliang

Shenzhen listed company 999 Pharmaceutical Co. (999) is under investigation, and is to be prosecuted by a group of minority shareholders with the support of the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC). It is said that a 999 majority shareholder and other sides concerned have diverted listed capital illegally.

According to the investigation result, 999 Group, as the majority shareholder, as well as other parties, have committed three crimes.

First, the majority shareholder took over 2.5 billion yuan of the listed capital by May 31 this year, covering 96% of the net property of the company. This was one of the biggest discrepancies in capital management which the CSRC uncovered in its investigation process in June, said the spokesperson of the CSRC

on August 28.

Second, 999 faked acceptance worth more than 1 billion yuan, with opaque capital flowing between 999 and 999 Group making a total of over 10 billion yuan. 999 and its majority shareholder hid their capital flows in the annual report, a media source unveiled.

Serious management problems exist in the company. The board of directors and board of supervisors of 999 did not take minutes at any meetings. The two boards seemed to have no function, as big dealings were all made by one person, Chairman Zhao Xinxian.

Third, 999 Group is a well-established company in China with 3 well-known listed companies. 999, as a subsidiary company, has inspired great hopes since it was listed on the market. However, the company's share price remained at a surprisingly low level, given the substantial amounts

inflowing capital. Now the mystery has come out of the closet.

The CSRC rules that the directors and the board did not fulfill their responsibilities of decision-making and supervision. The chairman Zhao Xinxian should bear the major responsibility and be reprimanded. It is learned Zhao is now under investigation.

Experts said this practice would weaken development of the listed company as large amounts of capital were taken away. Furthermore, it will exaggerate the financial risk of the company and endanger its existence. Analysts remark it also reflected the company did not show enough respect to its investors and actually cheated minority shareholders.

Share prices of all the 999-related companies decreased dramatically once the CSRC pronounced their determination. It is also learned 999 Group has made a formal apology to the investors and is to refer the fund-paying plan to the board of directors of 999 on August 31, only 3 days after the CSRC's decision. The plan was to repay part of the diverted fund, a total of 1.1 billion yuan including 500 million cash and the share-controlling rights of 999 Biopharmaceutical.

According to an incomplete estimate, more than a dozen listed companies have acted against Securities Law in recent years. The 999 case has been considered as a big event and will mark a great step for the CSRC if the state supervising body can deal with it in a proper and strict way, experts say.



Whatever the success of the Mutang Project, it is in no way Kaili's business. Above is the front gate of Mutang construction site Photo by Caijing

Truth Behind Kaili's Victory

By Zhao Yijiang

After Hainan Kaili won a lawsuit on July 5th against the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) for illegally refusing its bid to list on the stock market, its president Wei Kaizheng said, "After 3 years we finally achieved victory. The victory is not just for us, but for the Chinese legal system and the securities market." It is worth asking, however, what was behind the victory?

Did the court go too far?

According to the ruling made by the appeal court, the CSRC should refer to the relevant authority in charge, or professional institutions, when it meets questionable issues in the examination of an issuing document. A lot of legal experts have different opinions against the ruling. "Verifying the truthfulness of the issuing document given by the applicant is a part of the function of the CSRC. It is improper for the court to go out of the judicial boundary to intervene in administrative affairs," said professor Fang Liufang, from China University of Political Science & Law.

Dilemma of the CSRC

The ruling actually takes away the CSRC's power of examining the accounting information of the companies which want to be listed on the stock market. A reporter from *Caijing Magazine* found out recently that 97% of Kaili's profits contains a falsehood. The Mutang project which generated the majority of Kaili's profit in 1995, 1996, and 1997, was financed by Kaili's major shareholder rather than the company itself. But this questionable application was approved by the relevant authority. So if other governmental bodies went wrong and the CSRC has no power to challenge them, how can the CSRC shoulder the responsibility to regulate the securities market?

It doesn't end here

"Until today the CSRC takes it for granted that we have the duty to examine the truthfulness, accuracy and completeness of all the provided accounting documents," said the CSRC vice president Gao Xiqing after the ruling. In spite of the unfavorable final judgment, the CSRC submitted a "protest" to the Supreme People's Court.



Until Wednesday shares of 999 Medicine dropped to 12.57 yuan, the lowest ever from the IPO date Photo by JY

Small and Medium Sized SOEs Open for Foreign Purchase

By Zhao Hongyi

The Chinese government is drafting regulations to fully open the country's small and medium sized state owned enterprises (SOEs) for foreign investors to hold shares or gain full control, Beijing Today learned from reliable sources this week.

According to central government statistics, the number of small and medium sized SOEs in the country exceeds 8 million, occupying 99% of all enterprises nationwide. These enterprises occupy 60%, 40% and 60% respectively in terms of industrial output, profits earning and taxes, and export volume, while accounting for 75% of the total employment positions in towns and cities.

"China's small and medium sized SOEs are facing great challenges ahead both from the domestic market and their counterparts abroad," said Mr. Xu Ming, deputy director general of the Department of Foreign Economic Coordination, State Economic and Trade Commission (SETC). SETC is one of the think tanks the central government relies on in implementing policies on economic reform.

"The suggestion from the central government is that these enterprises have to be more active in science and technologies application, more specific and professional in their business," Mr. Xu said, "at the same time, the central government also welcomes foreign investment to be involved in the reform and development of these small and medium sized SOEs."

According to Mr. Xu, China will adopt various channels to attract and guide foreign capital into its small and medium sized SOEs, including perfecting the current existing credit guarantee system, increasing credit scales to these enterprises, supporting these enterprises' attracting investment on the domestic financial market, as well as on financial markets abroad. It is believed more and more



Quite a number of small and medium sized SOEs in the country hope that the currently difficult situation they are facing will be improved by introducing new capital and management system

Photo by Zhuang Jian

small and medium sized SOEs will be listed on stock markets abroad.

Meanwhile, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC) said the other day that, with China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO), foreign investors will enjoy wider market access into the country's small and medium sized SOEs, which offers great opportunities to small and medium sized enterprises abroad to enter the Chinese market.

In fact, China has enriched its methods of absorbing foreign investment this year. Aside from the traditional borrowings and investment, China is offering more channels like purchasing, merging, investment funds and securities to attract overseas capital into the country, medium and long-term investment in particular.

The merging and purchasing of companies in China has been increasing by an average of 70% annually in terms of volume over the past five years, according to the calculation by the International Management Consultant Co., a US business management consultant company in Beijing. This makes China the third largest targeted market in Asia for merging and purchasing of ventures.

But Mr. Jim Hemerling, vice president of Boston Consultant Group in Shanghai pointed out the possible difficulties in running SOEs in China: lack of long term development plans, political factors active in the development of enterprises, lack of accounting standards and budget information, lack of professional business coordination capabilities, transforming property ownership and so on. He added that foreign investors should find ways to handle the large workforce and attract professional talent if they want to succeed in China.

IDG: No More Venture Capital Investment

By Zhao Hongyi

International Data Group (IDG), the leading U.S. IT media, research and exposition company, expressed their determination to stop venture investment in China.

The remark was made by Mr. Li Jianguang, vice president of the technological venture investment fund, the venture investment arm of the IDG, at the "2001 Beijing Internet Development Forum" held September 6-8 in Beijing.

Recent performance of Nasdaq shows that various investment formulas into the dot.com and Internet industry have failed. After the Nasdaq index reached its bottom, to invest in this sector has become more and more nonsensical, according to conventional market rules.

But Mr. Li also confirmed that venture capital played an important role in the preliminary stage of the development of the Internet industry and contributed a lot to it. "But we are more convinced that media and telecommunications industries, especially the giants in these two sectors, will be the major suppliers both in terms of contents and capital to the Internet industry of the future," said Mr. Li, "instead, the original venture investors like IDG should step aside and play a more appropriate supporting role."

Telecoms Up Development Pace

China is making regulations on using foreign capital in the profitable telecom sector, which should lead to unprecedented development in the next five years, a senior telecom official said in Xiamen, Fujian province on September 10.

Zhang Chunlin, senior official with the Ministry of Information Industry, told a seminar that the future for Sino-foreign cooperation in China's telecom sector looks bright.

Zhang said that currently Chinese and foreign telecom service providers can expand cooperation to reduce cost, promote business volume, improve service standards and quality of personnel.

The Chinese government will issue more preferential policies to encourage more Sino-foreign cooperative telecom programs in the nation's western region.

Statistics show that China's telecom sector has so far used 10 billion US dollars-worth of foreign loans, and Chinese telecom companies raised 20 billion US dollars in funding through issuing shares on foreign stock exchanges. (Xinhua)

China to Further Open Tourism Market

The Chinese government will further open the tourism sector and lessen restrictions on foreign travel agencies' entry into the nation's huge tourism market, according to a senior tourism official.

Wang Chaoyao, senior official with the National Tourism Administration, said on September 10 at a tourism seminar in Xiamen, Fujian province, that China will not only open its tourism market, but will also focus on advanced management concepts, technologies and personnel from abroad.

To date, China has approved establishment of eight Sino-foreign co-funded travel agencies, and many international famous hotel management groups are engaged in hotel management in China.

Statistics show that Chinese citizens made 10 million departures to travel abroad in 2000, up 13.4 percent from the year before, indicating that China has become a major source of international tourists.

Last year, China received 83.44 million arrivals of overseas tourists, raking in tourism revenues totaling 16.2 billion US dollars, ranking fifth and seventh respectively in the world.

China will become the world's top destination for international tourists, and the fourth largest country in terms of people traveling abroad in 2020, according to the World Tourism Organization. (Xinhua)



Photo by Zhao Hongyi

CBD Launches Beijing Chaoyang International Business Festival

By Zhao Hongyi

The Beijing municipality launched its ambitious CBD (Central Business District) plan on September 13, arousing great interest and reports by media.

After approval from the central government in 1993, the city has made great progress in its planning and development of the CBD. Last year, an open bidding attracted tens of designing agencies from home and abroad. After some adjustment, the municipal government publicized the final plan.

According to the Mr. Li Shixiang, governor of Chaoyang District where the CBD lies, a total investment over 12 billion yuan will be mobilized to build all necessary infrastructure like a subway system, sewage pipelines, roads, and so on. Opportunities lie not only in these areas, but also in real estate development. According to the plan, hundreds of business skyscrapers will be constructed

in the district.

"We aim to transform the 3.99 square kilometers area into a central point where business facilities, financial institutions, hotels, entertainment and relaxation facilities meet," said Mr. Li Shixiang, "symbolic buildings include the third phase projects of the China World Trade Center, Beijing Fortune Center, and CCTV Tower."

"Certainly, such a huge plan cannot be fully realized in a few years. But we have the confidence that all infrastructure and symbolic buildings will be in operation before the year 2008."

The 4 square-kilometer business and financial complex reflects the determination of both the central government and the municipal government to build the nation's capital city into a world standard business and commercial metropolis. In fact, with the country's rapid economic growth, self-confidence and optimism

are growing rapidly in the country and the city.

The building up of the CBD has already attracted great attention from investors from overseas and other regions. Mr. Li Ka-shing, the real estate tycoon from Hong Kong Hutchison Whampoa Properties, expressed an intention to invest over 10 billion yuan for the development of the Dong Ba residential center, one of the ten residential complexes bordering the CBD, also known as the 'backyard' of the business center.

In addition, the launching of the plan marks the formal opening of the second Beijing Chaoyang International Business Festival. The one-week festival will host a number of business fairs, seminars, and carnivals like a beer festival, tennis contest, golf, as well as other cultural entertainments in the city.

For more information, please visit: www.bjcbd.com

Land Using Rights: New Shares of Investment

By Zhao Hongyi

Over the past two decades, China has adopted a household land contract formula that gives farmers more freedom over land use and cultivation. The formula has played a significant role in the country's progress in agricultural production, which has quadrupled in terms of harvest volume.

In recent years, farmers, young farmers in particular, are increasingly preferring to move out of agriculture and work in urban areas. The household land formula cannot match the industrial development of farming.

Concentrated land farming and cultivation constitute a further reform in China's rural areas. A number of land farming companies have been set up to deal with this policy. Farmers contribute their con-

tracted land to the companies as shares and become shareholders.

At present, these companies are still based on individual villages, which means a village sets up a land farming company and invites professional farming ventures to cultivate and run the distributed land by way of open bidding. The income from land leasing will be distributed to individual farmers after tax and all administrative fees have been paid.

The new formula does not change the status of the household land contracting system but gives the nation's farmers a new concept of currency value rather than land value. It also liberalizes farmers out of the land they contracted and prepares a labor force for the country's further development in its industrialization.



Cultivated land is not only a source of production. It has also become a type of capital for investment in the farmers dominated country

Photo by Zhuang Jian

By Zhao Hongyi

China welcomes and encourages multinationals to establish their production bases, R&D centers and other logistic facilities in the country, declared Ms. Ma Xiuhong, assistant minister of China's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC) on September 9.

Multinationals Invited to Establish Bases

According to Ma, the Chinese government also encourages domestic enterprises to cooperate with foreign-invested ventures and take part in the production assemblies of these ventures, particularly multinationals. Ms. Ma made these remarks at the fifth Interna-

tional Symposium on logistic facilities for the IT industry held last week in Beijing. "Only in this way can domestic enterprises enter into the global production system, sales channels and logistic networks of those multinationals. And only in this way can domestic enterprises

raise their competitiveness."

China considers the IT industry as an important target for development. It is also one of the hottest areas for foreign investment here. After a decade of development, a number of Sino-foreign joint ventures, cooperative ventures and fully

foreign owned ventures have been established in the country. The Chinese government will continue to encourage and support foreign investors to enter the country's IT industry and auxiliary industries, extend their production chains in the country. The government will also strive to improve conditions and services for those foreign investors.

More Ancient City Relics Comes out to Show

By Cindy Lee

The site of the old wall of the Ming and Qing Dynasty Imperial City has reemerged as the Imperial City Park in Dongcheng District, though only few of the relics of the ancient city can be seen in the park at present.

The opening of the Imperial City Park is only one of such activities in the preservation of historical and cultural relics of Beijing. Many of the occupied historical sites have also been restored to reveal their unique value to the history and culture of



The newly opened Imperial City Park
Photo by Gloom

Beijing and more are on the way. For the protection of the relics site of the Imperial City Park, 900 householders in Dongcheng District have been relocated at a cost of 600 million yuan.

More relocations and renovations are underway to protect other relic sites. Over 80 households will be moved out of the Xiannong Alter and repair and maintenance work is to follow. The Emperors' Temple in Xicheng District will be restored following the relocation of No.159 Middle School after a prolonged occupation. Also the Lotus Pond and Houmen Bridge areas have recovered their original features, with illegal structures being removed from the vicinity not long ago.

According to the Historical Relics Bureau of Beijing, some 2,000 households have been moved away from historical sites since early last year, and more than 100 thousand square meters of historical sites have been cleared of improper occupation by residential houses or organizations.

These historical sites also include the Northern Hall occupied by the No. 39 Middle School, the Dahui Temple, the Beida Red Tower, the Pudu Temple, the Imperial College and the Yangping Guild Hall.

Drums to Open 4th Golden Travel Festival

By Cindy Lee

A drum performance given by nearly 60 teams from 26 countries on Beijing's Ping'an Avenue, will kick off the Beijing International Cultural Tourism Festival on the morning of September 23.

The festival, which will run from September 23 to 27, has been held in autumn in Beijing for the last three years.

Drum performances of various styles will be seen in the parade,

by groups from America, Japan, Kuwait, Africa and West Africa, as well as many different local styles including Shanxi Yicheng, Shaanxi Ansai, Jiangsu Hai'an, Yunnan Daizu, Tibetan Reba and Korean Long-drum.

The parade will also feature 70 pairs of twins of various ages, who will pass through Ping'an Avenue on Hutong Tour carriages. (See page 15)

Man Gets Double Lottery Win

By Liu Jianwu/Shan Jinliang

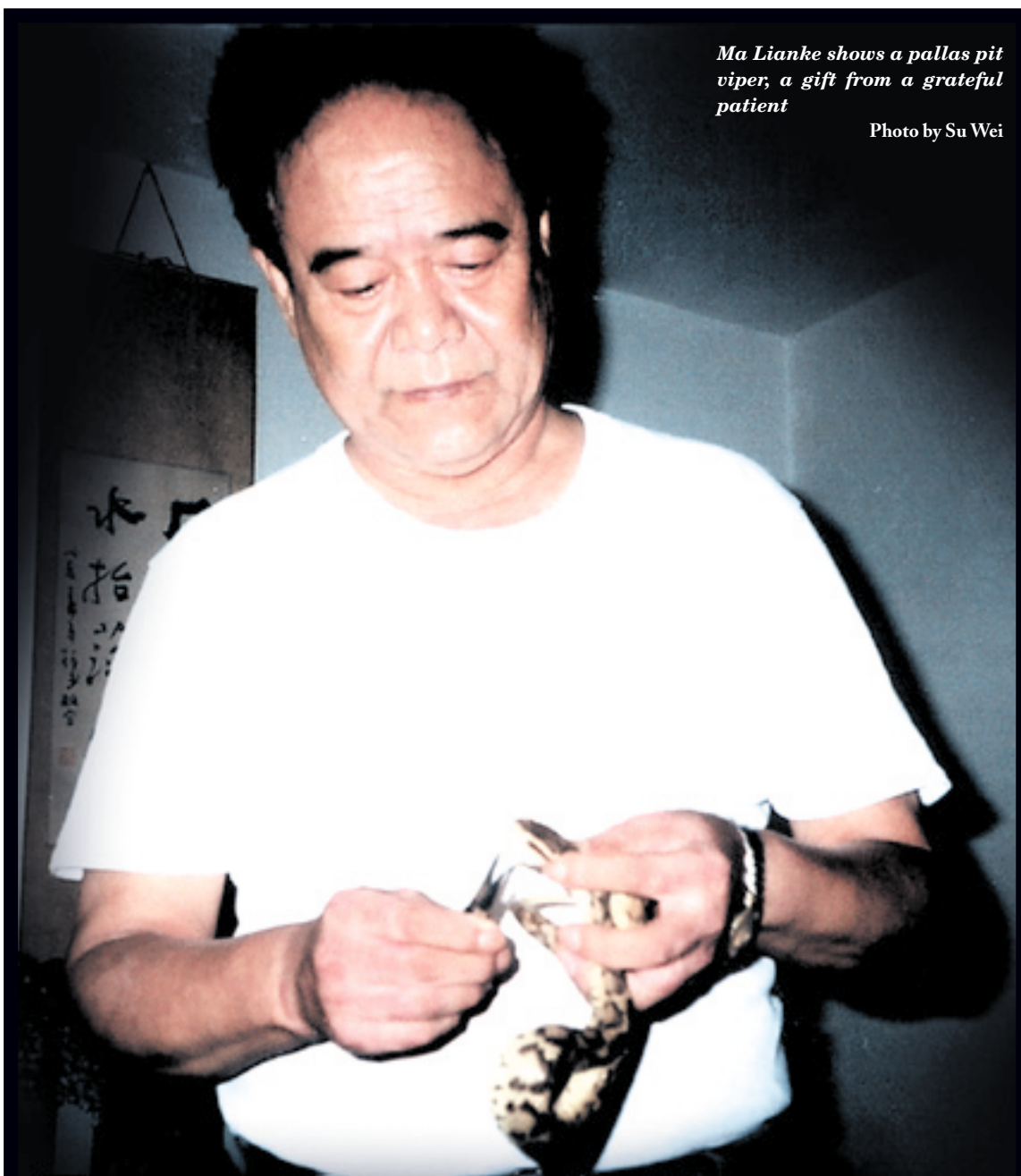
With red and swollen eyes, a man bursting with excitement was hopping around at the gate of the City Sports Lottery Center, eagerly waiting for it to open. Few could imagine this ordinary man was the winner of two top grade prizes with a 10,000,000-yuan bonus, setting a new record in China's lottery market.

The man runs a local business, and is a frequent buyer of lottery tickets. He says he has never missed a draw before. Each time he picked the lottery num-

ber himself and has spent an incredible 400,000 yuan. It is also learned he won a first grade prize with a bonus of over 300,000-yuan. He will be awarded 8,000,000 yuan after being taxed.

The man, calling himself Mr.Xu, was reluctant to unveil any more personal information and he would not allow photographers to take pictures of him.

The two top grade lottery wins came from the same No. 04001 selling spot at the gate of the City Sports Lottery Center, the gate of Xiannongtan Stadium.



Ma Lianke shows a pallas pit viper, a gift from a grateful patient

Photo by Su Wei

From Snake Keeper to Snake Bite Doctor

By Su Wei

"I am very happy, for I no longer need to worry about practicing without a license, and more and more people bitten by snakes will be treated. I am very proud of setting up the first private clinic for snake bite treatment," says Ma Lianke. 64-year-old Ma, a former snake keeper at the Beijing Zoo, is the founder of the first private clinic for snake bites in Beijing.

"The western method for treating snake bite is limited, for serum can only be injected three times. Otherwise the patient will be poisoned. Furthermore, my herbal remedies are much more effective in curing injuries. The patient only takes my medicine for one week. Within one day, the pain is totally released, within three days the swelling disappears and within one week, he or she can return to work." He said confidently and seriously.

Ma was responsible for purchasing and rearing snakes at the Beijing zoo from 1958 till his retirement. In order to purchase the rarest snakes, he has been to Guangdong, Guangxi, Yunnan, and Guizhou. He cherished each opportunity to learn the methods of treating snake bites from the local people, the snake dealers and the staff in the local zoos.

He said it is also important to test the effect of the medicines." Each time I discover a new method, I usually first consult the Compendium of Materia Medica and other relevant

materials. For the herbal remedies not listed in the books, I have to tested them on patients."

Ma is proud of his prescriptions developed over more than forty years." Generally speaking, there are dozens of different herbs in each of my prescriptions. My family and myself collect most of them. Only a small part listed in the Pharmacopoeia are purchased in the pharmacy." Ma said it is a hardship to collect the needed herbs. "Accompanied by my sons or my wife, I went to the rural areas in the south. It usually takes one year to make up the prescription, including five months to collect them in winter.

Now Ma is considering opening a department in a big hospital, due to the limitation of the equipment in his clinic, which he has set up at his own house. "Some big hospitals have asked me to help when a patient who has been bitten by a snake is in danger in the past. Although patients were saved, I think they will benefit much if there is no delay in receiving my treatment."

However, Ma said that he would never donate his prescription to the hospital. Only he or his family will decoct the herbals before the medicine is given to the patients. He emphasized it only takes two hours to prepare and the one-week dose is enough. He says he wants to keep the prescription as a family heritage.

Unidentified Rodent Apprehended at Airport

By Sun Ming

Beijing's Capital Airport was the scene of an exciting, and somewhat unusual chase last week, when an unidentified rodent escaped from an arriving passenger's luggage.

The mouse-like animal had concealed itself in the baggage of a student from Indonesia. When the student went through the routine quarantine check, the animal jumped out of a sack wrapped around a wooden case and ran away.

A high-speed chase ensued, involving several quarantine and security personnel, and the illegal immigrant was eventually cornered and captured.

According to the student, before leaving Indonesia, he bought some vegetables in a supermarket, packaged them in a wooden case and wrapped it in the sack. He didn't realize the animal was concealed in the sack.

Dong Jingmin, of the Beijing Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau said the plane that the animal stowed away on and some areas of the airport were quickly disinfected. The vegetables were also destroyed.

"The animal has already been sent to a special rodent investigation institution in Zhangjiakou city. But so far, it hasn't been identified by the researchers, because they have never seen an animal like it before," said Dong.



By Sun Ming

★ In order to construct a more advanced public transport system in Beijing, the municipal government has invited bidding for the design of a new blueprint for the city's subway network.

★ All moon cakes on sale in Beijing have undergone a comprehensive check by the relevant health departments in Beijing from September 10. The results of the check will be announced on September 15.

★ The area of the municipality of Beijing covered by water will increase from 5,500 hectares to 13,000 hectares by 2008, greatly improving the living environment of the capital.

★ The closest refuse dump to the downtown area of Beijing, previously located by the Fourth Ring Road, has been moved to a new location 35 kilometers from the city center.

Beijingers Welcome Quality Housekeepers

Nursing Graduates Find New Job Opportunities in Beijing

By Sun Ming

A new phenomenon has appeared in Beijing recently, with new graduates of nurses' training schools from other cities serving as house keepers in Beijing.

The institution that introduces these graduates to the families of Beijingers is the Housekeeping Network Service Center of Chongwen District. According to Shang Chenyang, the director of this center, there is a big demand for well qualified housekeepers in Beijing. At the same time, many graduates from nurses' training schools find it difficult to find good jobs because hospitals prefer to employ college graduates. Also, many people in other cities want to work in Beijing. So as of June this year, the center has been introducing these nursing school graduates to work in Beijing as housekeepers.

"I'm very happy because I can



Some of the new nursing graduates chat in a dorm. at the Housekeeping Network Service Center
Photo by Sun Ming

work in Beijing. But you know being a housekeeper isn't my final goal. I only want to learn something by the experience. How nice it would be if I

could find a better job in the future in Beijing," said 18-year-old Wang Wenjian.

Most nursing school graduates

have undergone 4 years of study and training. So they are seen as being well qualified to be housekeepers by Beijingers. Certainly, their employers have to pay even double the salary of an ordinary housekeeper.

"I intend to employ such a housekeeper," said Mr. Wu. According to him, he and his wife have already changed more than ten housekeepers to take care of their 11-month daughter. Some of them who have experience can't read and write, while the ones who can read and write always have no experience. "I think that the graduates from nurses' training schools have both talents," said Wu.

According to Shang, up to now, the center has already introduced 60 graduates to Beijing families. Most of them come from Shandong, Shanxi and Sichuan provinces. "We'll introduce more graduates to Beijing to meet the high demand of housekeepers in Beijing," he said.



Photo by Zhang Tong

8-year-old Wins First Prize in Art Competition

By Zhang Tong/Sun Ming

The award ceremony for the 'Juvenile Fancy Painting Competition for the Olympic Games' Bid' was held in Beijing on September 9. More than 30,000 Beijing school children entered paintings in the competition, with 36 winning prizes.

8-year-old Wang Wenjian was awarded first prize for his picture, 'Five dolphins jumping through five hoops'. "The five dolphins symbolize the five Olympic Games' bids. The one that jumps highest and farthest is Beijing," he said.

World Unites in Horror

SOUND BITES

Leaders condemn attack



US President George W. Bush: determined

"Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve."

—President George W. Bush in his Oval Office address

"On behalf of the British people, Mr President, may I express my heartfelt sympathy to the very many bereaved and injured and our admiration for those who are now trying to cope with these unfolding tragedies. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all."

—Message from Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom

"I send my condolences to the president, the government and the people



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat: shocked

for this terrible incident. We are completely shocked. It's unbelievable."

—Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, speaking in Gaza

"Senators and House members, Democrats and Republicans will stand shoulder to shoulder to fight this evil that's been perpetrated on this nation. We will stand together to make sure that those who have brought forth this evil deed will pay the price."

—House Speaker Dennis Hastert

"Today's despicable acts were an assault on our people and on our freedom. Our resolve has not been weakened by these horrific and cowardly acts. We, Republicans and Democrats, House and Senate, stand strongly united behind the president, and

will work together to ensure that the full resources of the government are brought to bear in these efforts."

—US Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle

"It is impossible to fully comprehend the evil that would have conjured up such a cowardly and depraved assault upon thousands of innocent people. There can be no cause or grievance that could ever justify such unspeakable violence. Indeed, such an attack is an assault not only on the targets but an offense against the freedom and rights of all civilized nations. We stand ready to provide any assistance that our American friends may need at this very, very difficult time and in the subsequent investigation."

—Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien

"This series of barbarian terrorist acts, targeted against innocent people, arouses our indignation and outrage. On behalf of the Russian people, I want to tell the US people — we are with you, we share and feel your pain, (and) we support you."

—Russian President Vladimir Putin, in a message to President Bush

"There can be no doubt that these attacks are deliberate acts of terrorism, carefully planned and coordinated ... I condemn them utterly."



(Xinhua Photos)

—UN Secretary General Kofi Annan

"This outrageous and vicious act of violence against the United States is unforgivable."

—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi

"Retaliation will lead to the deaths of many people and will be followed by more counter-strikes."

—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad

"Europeans stand together with the USA and all peace-loving peoples of the world in condemning and resisting terrorism in the strongest possible terms."

—European Commission President Romano Prodi

By Xiao Rong / Chen Ying

Beauty & the Knife

Why students want plastic surgery

By Xiao Rong

Plastic surgeons have been busy during the last two months, routine summer vacation for university and middle-school students.

In July and August there was a 30% increase in patients, of whom 80% were university and middle-school students, said Dr. Chen Huanran of the Plastic Surgery Hospital of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences. Over 90% were women.

"The most unbelievable thing," says Dr Chen, "is that sometimes we do more than 120 operations in our outpatient department just in one day. As the largest plastic surgery hospital in China, it's like an assembly line to create beauty."

In this increasingly competitive society, outward beauty has become a survival skill and a social necessity in public, certainly exerting a strong influence on younger generations.

Some question whether it's appropriate for students to have plastic surgery.

Miss Li, junior student, Taipinglu Middle School, Beijing:

I come here to pad my nose higher because some classmates always laugh at my nose and even made up nicknames for it. It's really a misery to be mocked.

In addition, I will be busy preparing for the graduation examination for junior students the following year, and so I think it's better to do the surgery in advance so that I will be more confident in future social competition. For as you know, sometimes in the entrance exams for some professional high schools, appearance

is a very important factor. Those who are not beautiful will obtain fewer chances.

Another reason for my surgery is that some of my female classmates did it first, so it's not that terrible as long as you choose a reliable hospital. I just want to gain confidence by having plastic surgery, but as to those who worship blindly the beauty of famous film stars and want to mimic exactly the same look as the stars, I think that's too foolish. Every person has a unique look, and so I would like my appearance to be true to myself, not copy others.

Wu Lina, student who recently graduated from Shandong Post and Telecommunications University:

It took me one night to arrive in Beijing from Shandong province by train. But I think it's worthwhile because the Plastic Surgery Hospital of Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences is very famous and I trust Dr Chen Huanran's skills. My surgery includes four items — nose, forehead, cheekbone and the lower jaw. I'm not satisfied with how they looked before and to find a good job, I decided to change them.

Actually I'm not ugly at all, but what I want is to be more perfect. Every woman hopes to be beautiful, especially in this highly competitive society, where beauty can sometimes help you achieve your goal.

Some persons may say that it's an artificial beauty achieved by operations, but I think it doesn't make much difference whether it's a natural or artificial organ. Beauty is beauty.

Wang Xia, vice director of



Before and after

plastic surgery of the No.3 Hospital of Beijing Medical University:

From the professional point of view, we generally don't agree to plastic operations unless a person has obvious physical defects. Everyone loves beauty, but it's not necessary to gain perfection through a cosmetic operation. For young students, especially middle school students, it's really not proper to do plastic surgery with the exception of those students from the arts and dance schools. This is due to their immature judgment and understanding of themselves. We tend to accept those adults who exhibit mature self-judgment and thus can undertake the responsibilities of the possible risks of plastic surgery.

Wang Feng, vice director of the Mental Health Guide Center of East China Normal University:

Although anyone can try plastic surgery, there are still many misunderstandings about aesthetics. Greatly influenced by the inappropriate promotions of the media, many young people blindly indulge in the adoration of glamorous stars instead of the pursuit of inner abilities. Moreover, the younger generation tends to lack the ability of discriminating between beauty and ugliness, and so it's really dangerous and tragic for students to have plastic surgery when they have no self-worth or independent spirit.

Chen Huanran, surgeon of the Plastic Surgery Hospital of Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences:

As a plastic surgeon for over

15 years, I have seen great changes in the aesthetic ideas of ordinary people. More and more people, especially women, choose plastic surgery when in the past it was considered rare and unacceptable. It represents progress in a civilized society to be more tolerant of other's choices.

But everything has two sides. Plastic surgery can improve your outward appearance, but not your inner capabilities. The appearance is like the screen of a computer. But without a powerful memory, like the ability of a person, the computer cannot put into use. So for those young students not satisfied with their looks, plastic surgery cannot help them totally. What they should look to is improvement of their inner abilities.

There are several kinds of patients that I will not choose. Those who have mental illness with a history of depression, those who beautify themselves for the sake of others, and those who do not retain mature self-judgment. For those young students who are not over 18, I will not do the operation for them unless their parents agree to do it.

As to the good relationship of a doctor and a patient, I think there should be three levels. The first one is that the patient must have his specific demands as to what kind of appearance he wants. The second is that a doctor must consider whether it's possible to achieve what the patient demands through current medical skills. Thirdly, whether the appearance the patient chooses is suitable to the person himself. Only when the three levels have been achieved, can the doctor create a work of art together with the ideas of the patient.

Women's Attitudes Towards Weight-loss

By Su Wei
It seems almost every modern woman wants to have a slender figure. Advertisements for slimming medicines and activities promoted by slimming exercises clubs are everywhere.

Meanwhile, the negative effects of losing weight are becoming more and more apparent. What are women's attitudes towards losing weight? What do they say about the effects of losing weight? Recently, Beijing Youth Daily, Beijing Today and the Datasea Marketing Group conducted a survey to see what women know and think about weight-loss.

Familiarity with the standard weight corresponding to height

80% of those surveyed know what their weight should be, according to their height, and 37% have actually calculated their Body Mass Index (BMI) according to the international standard (BMI = Weight (kg) / Height (m)²).

Women's perception of their weight

Almost half of the women surveyed consider themselves neither fat nor thin. About 33% think they are a little overweight and the remainder believe they are very overweight. Interestingly, none feel they are too thin, while it's likely that some may claim to be overweight, when actually they are not.

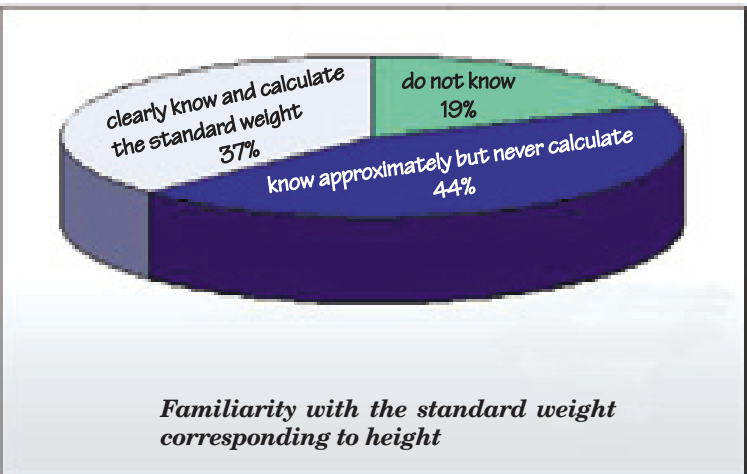
Weight-loss, a popular topic of discussion

Weight-loss is a frequent subject of advertising and media, and is also a frequent topic of discussion for many women. 32% of those surveyed say they often talk about being overweight or losing weight with their colleagues, friends and

family. The younger and the better educated the women, the more frequently the topic arises.

Among the surveyed women who consider themselves overweight, 41% say they are very sensitive to other people's comments about their weight, while 45% pay no heed to such comments.

followed by "Being slim is very attractive" and "Men are increasingly fussy about women's figures". Perhaps surprisingly, women with a tertiary education are more likely to cite "Men's fussiness about women's figures" as a reason to lose weight".



have attempted lose weight themselves, or not. "Diet" is also considered a good way of losing weight. Although most of the advertised methods for weight-loss involved either surgery or taking medication, these were the least preferred options, bad news for entrepreneurs seeking a share of the weight-loss market.

Awareness of negative side effects of weight-loss

The survey shows that most women understand the potential dangers associated with weight-loss. "Digestion problems as a result of fasting" is the biggest negative, followed by "Loss of appetite leading anemia" and "Fluctuations in weight". Those with a higher education background were more aware of these problems than those with less education. Few of the surveyed felt that inability to lose enough weight will affect their self-confidence.

Almost 33% know something about anorexia and 40% know of someone whose health has been damaged as a result of weight-loss. However few of those surveyed who have lost or are losing weight, admitted to suffering any adverse effects.

Conclusion

Among the surveyed who have or are trying to lose weight, 39% say they have succeeded, compared with 16% who say their weight actually increased, rather than decreased. However, 67% of those who have lost or are losing weight, say they will continue to use any kind of new methods to lose weight. Clearly, some women will never give up seeking the perfect figure.

Losing Weight, A Fatal Obsession

By Su Wei

Almost every other Monday afternoon, a female sophomore of Northern Jiaotong University comes to see Prof. Zhang Darong, a doctor specializing in anorexia treatment at Beijing No.6 Hospital. She is 1.68 meters tall, but weighs no more than 40kg. She acknowledges that she is one of Zhang's patients who are suffering from anorexia, a condition where the sufferer starves himself or herself because of an irrational fear of becoming fat.

Professor Zhang says it is very common for people, particularly females aged 13-25 to suffer from this condition. Most come from relatively well off families. The majority of her patients are young women studying at top universities, tending to be very demanding of themselves and somewhat self-centered. On the other hand, they often are unstable, overly sensitive, highly dependent on their families, and generally have high intellectual quotients.

The young student is reluctant to receive treatment, and each time she visits the doctor, is accompanied by her father, who insisted she seek help in the first place. According to Zhang, the girl once ate no more than 100g of food a day, and exercised for two or three hours daily.

Such phenomena is typical of anorexia patients. They find any excuse not to have meals with other family members, such as they are busy reading or have just eaten. Even when forced to have a meal together with others, they frequently spit the food out, or throw up secretly. At night, they refuse to go to sleep. If they fall asleep, they often wake up quickly and continue to exercise.

Zhang pointed out that ten years ago, people hospitalized with anorexia accounted for only 1-2% of total patients. Now the figure has increased to 5-6%. Those hospitalized with anorexia are usually severely ill, having suffered from the condition for anywhere between six months to five years. Furthermore, there are many patients who still have not taken any medical treatment.

Another of Zhang's patients, an already graduated university student from Beijing University, adopted vomiting food to lose weight. The girl wrote in a letter to Zhang, "I can not resist the temptation to eat all the delicious food. I am aware that I will vomit it all up later, but I just cannot control myself. I feel there is no hope for me. I am to die soon." Fortunately, the girl is now out of danger, though she is receiving medical treatment.

Zhang says such patients adopt such drastic measures as a way of enjoying delicious food while not putting on weight. They may try to steal food in stores, and are locked in a state of mental suffering as a result of their conduct.

Zhang admitted that while hospital treatment is successful in increasing the patients' weight, it is not very effective in changing their attitudes in the short term. It usually takes up to five years for 70-75% of the patients to recover completely. 5-8% of the patients die, either from lack of nutrition or even commit suicide, unable to stand the suffering or as a result of depression associated with the disease.

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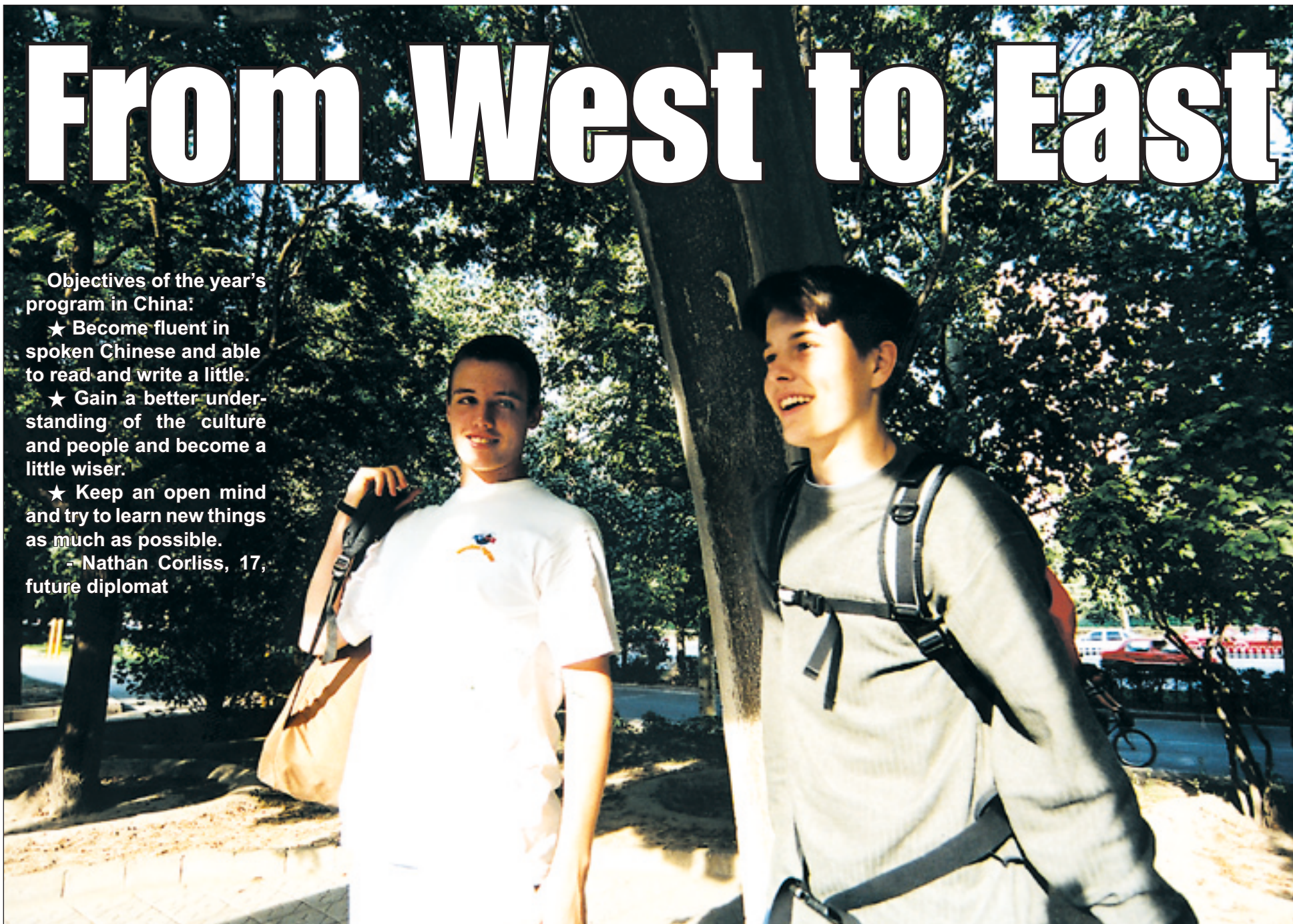
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Jan (left) and Nathan (right) on their way to Beijing Dongzhimen Middle School

Photo by Michel Reynolds



Jan gets some tips from a classmate

Photo by Michael Reynolds

IMMERSED IN CHINA

German teen sees China from the inside

By Michael Reynolds

"I started getting interested in China when I was about eight years old," remarked Jan. Now sixteen, Jan Kuehn von Burgsdorff (from Bremen, Germany) has been given the chance to see China first-hand through the American Field Service.

After just arriving in Beijing on August 17, Jan experienced a world of changes. "I can't understand Chinese," Jan explains. While in Germany he read many historical books about Chinese culture and also practiced writing some simple characters. "He has more knowledge of Chinese history than my own son," his host mother said. However, it seems that no amount of studying could prepare Jan for culture shock.

An ordinary day for Jan now starts by waking up to have breakfast at 6:30 am with his host family before going to school at seven. A Chinese breakfast of eggs, milk and doushabao (something like a sweet roll), prepared by Jan's Chinese mother, usually suffices for him and his new brother, Li Peng Tian - 16. "My Chinese father is a businessman while my real father does business in Yugoslavia right now," Jan notes. Interestingly, "my Chinese mother is a doctor and my real mother is a psychologist."

After getting to the Dongzhimen Middle School, where Jan is referred to as "David" because his real name is difficult to pronounce, the two brothers separate to different

classes. Jan goes to study Chinese in a special classroom that has a computer, one teacher and two other foreign AFS students. "In the beginning we attended normal classes but it was absolutely impossible to follow the teacher," Jan explained... "I thought it was so strange that the Chinese teachers don't encourage the students to ask questions." In response, the dazed and confused newcomers have been treated to some special treatment in a classroom of their own.

"When we get out of class, sometimes Nathan (a classmate from America) and I go to a park nearby to sit and relax," related Jan. It seems the two have already adapted enough find a hangout of their own - no small feat in a city the size of Beijing. The lax environment that they are enjoying may be aggravating their boredom initially, but Jan and his friends are serious about learning Chinese. "I need more time to learn... I just got here," Jan enthuses.

"You can only learn so much from books about China," he said. "Ever since I was little I wanted to come and see China on my own." Yet, Jan's expectations have been surpassed in some ways and let down in others. "The food in China is better than in Germany," he admits, "Yet, I have to admit that I was a little bit disappointed by the tourist attractions. Before I came, they were just so grand in my mind. China has a very interesting culture."

New Challenges in a New Environment

By Ivy Zhang

As part of the AFS (American Field Service) Intercultural Program, 6 American and 4 German students arrived in Beijing on Aug. 17 to take part in a one-year study program.

This is the first year AFS has sent high school students to the Chinese mainland and the first time for students to live with Chinese volunteer host families and attend regular schools.

After a seven-day orientation class organized by CEAIE (China Education Association for International Exchange), the students were assigned to Beijing's Dongzhimen Middle School and Shiyi School, and Tianjin No. 1 Middle School.

Different schooling

Starting from September 1st, Nathan Corliss, a 17-year-old boy from Eugene, Oregon in the USA, began his studies at Dongzhimen Middle School, located in Beijing's embassy zone along with two other German students.

In the first week, Nathan went to regular classes from morning to the afternoon with his host brother, Liu Chang, 16. Since all classes except English are taught in Chinese, it was impossible for a new comer with little knowledge of the Chinese language to understand and follow.

"Nathan fell asleep in the history class," Liu Chang later

told the reporter at his home. "Me? Sleep in class?" The straight-A student defended himself, "I just rested my eyes for a little bit."

Actually, Nathan likes to read Chinese history, and the Han Dynasty - one of the most prosperous periods in China's 5,000 year history - is his favorite period.

During the first week, Nathan experienced a different teaching style. The Chinese teacher stands in the front dispensing information, while in the US, teachers tend to build a more interactive environment. Also, classes run for two hours longer everyday in Beijing.

Beginning from the second week, in addition to two classes in the morning to learn Chinese culture, the three AFS students have two Chinese lessons in the afternoon on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

"We are learning basics now," Wang Ying, the teacher said, "So far, they have mastered simple words and phrases."

Home in Beijing

Nathan's host family is a typical Chinese family. The father is a Deputy Director of the TV & Film Center at China National Petroleum Corporation. The mother is an accountant at a university and their son Liu Chang is a tall boy who likes playing basketball.

They live in a two-story apartment building with two bathrooms, two computers and a car. To have another son - Nathan Corliss - brings them no big living or financial burdens, but much joy.

"I'm satisfied with everything here. Mum is really a good cook," Nathan noted. "Beijing is very nice. I've never lived in a big city before. There are a lot of different sights to see and lots of things to do."

However, he does suffer from 'culture shock' occasionally and misses his family and friends.

"I never shed a tear since I came here. But, there's one time I was very close to it," Nathan said, "It was the first night in China. I lied in my bed. I thought what am I doing in China and I thought about my family and friends left behind. But then, I dwell on the things that I will get to do by this chance. It is really a great thing for me, I think."

As time goes by, Nathan is confident that things will get easier and he'll become more and more comfortable in the different culture.

Care from the host family

The Chinese family has treated Nathan as a member of the family and showed their love and care towards him.

They have visited the Forbidden City, Beihai Park, Longqing (dragon) Valley. They also took him on a tour of hutongs or alleys, which he found quite fascinating.

"Nathan seems to like horse-riding. We might take him to ride horses again at the grassland" the father said.

The arrival of 10 foreign students marks a cultural breakthrough in China.

According to Shen Xuesong of the CEAIE, "It symbolizes that China has initiated its interactive cultural exchange among middle school students. This program helps promote foreigners' understanding about China and Chinese culture and at the same time spreads the spirit of volunteering."

Sidelights

By Chen Huiying

Favorite food

Li Min, host mother to Jan Burgsdorff, one of the German exchange students, was told that German people like boiled potatoes served with sauces.

As she was not sure about David's taste, she cooked only one boiled potato and also fried some potato chips, just in case. As it turned out, during dinner, David ate up all the chips.

When David tries some Chinese dishes for the first time, he always asks clearly about what it is made from and how it is cooked.

On the other hand, Nathan seems willing to try almost anything. Since he came to China, he has tasted many dishes such as steamed fish, dumplings and some kinds of cakes.

One morning, Nathan saw some cube-shaped red fermented bean curd on a plate. Cake! He bit off a large piece without hesitation. The taste must have come as a horrible shock, but poor Nathan could only complain to his host mother with his limited Chinese, "Bu hao chi!" (It doesn't taste good!)



History lover

"Say something about Song Dynasty," David suddenly asked when being interviewed by the reporter.

If the reporter really had given some comments, it could have ruined the whole interview, for featuring with romance, Song Dynasty is the favorite of many Chinese.

"He just likes the songs we listened to 20 years ago, such as Tibetan music and western folk songs." David's host parents are surprised at his knowledge about Chinese history. "He has known about the Lama Temple and the Cultural Revolution before he came to China," said Li Min, "David might know more details about Chinese history than Chinese students of his age."



Chinese name

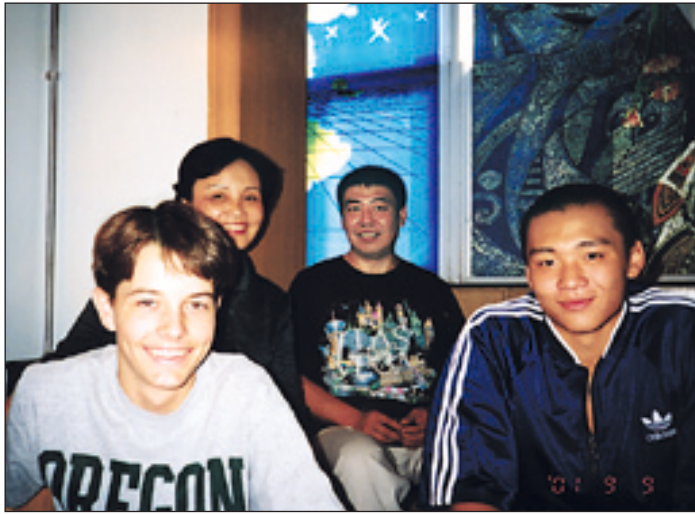
"We call Nathan 'Saner' (the third kid in the family) as his nickname at home, which sounds a little similar to his own name." Nathan's host family names him a typical Chinese cute name.

Nathan's first name in Chinese is "Neisen" meaning inside forest. It is a transliteration of his English one. However without a family name, it looks like a part of a Japanese one when written in Chinese characters.

This Monday, Nathan was asked to write down his full Chinese name on the blackboard. At this moment, Nathan decided that he should follow his host father's family name - Liu.



Photos by Michael Reynolds



Nathan at home with his host family

Photo by Ivy Zhang

*The writers born after the 1970s in China have been dubbed as the "floating" generation. They live alone in bed-sits. They write as a way to express themselves rather than as a job. They follow the calling in their own heart and don't care about other's opinions. Yin Lichuan, born in 1973, is one of the floaters. With her frankness and boldness, she has been hailed as the coolest writer in her circles. Yin's first book *Feel More Comfortable* audaciously traces an intricate web of women's inner emotions. This novel has aroused the attention of readers and stirred up fierce controversy among the critics.*

(By editor)

By Hu Xiaoli

On an ordinary September afternoon, Yin Lichuan sat for interview in a quiet little bar near Beijing Normal University, where she lit up a cigarette. "I decided to quit smoking this morning, but I tend to smoke when thinking," she smiled, shrugging, "old habits die hard." Decked out in the latest fashions, and with dyed hair, Yin, a cool freelance writer, talked about her childhood dreams, the world of writing, and her struggles with her own emotional demons.

Raised on Books and Diaries

Born in Chongqing city, Yin described her childhood as a happy period. "My best time was lingering in my father's library, although I didn't understand most of the books," she recalled in a sweet voice. Yin's father was a college professor teaching modern Chinese literature of the 1920s and 1930s. "So, I sometimes hoped to be a writer at that time, but never really wrote anything except the diaries and letters." Yin took a few sips from the mint tea she had ordered, and lit up another cigarette.

At the age of 7, Yin's family moved to Beijing. During that time, she had been in and out of more than 7 schools before going to university. "Every move was a big torture in my memory," Yin said, stroking her hair. Her classmates had already made good friends, so it was difficult for little Yin to find a soul mate. "I felt lonely and inferior," she confessed, but the bright smile didn't leave her face. The only way she could hide her sense of loneliness and inferiority was to pretend

for a decent job in Beijing. Yin was packing to study film in France. "I usually follow my instinct closely, besides, I was wanting to go to a faraway place to find my real self."

Yin stayed in France for three years, studying in the Ecole Supérieure d'Etudes Cinématographiques (ESEC) film school in Paris. The lessons at ESEC, however, were a little disappointing to her. So she ended up spending most of her time watching films alone in the cinema.

After Yin had seen nearly all the good films in Paris, she decided to come back to China, even though her French boyfriend had proposed to her and wished her to stay in Paris. "I just felt Paris was not a remote place in my mind any more, and I needed the next remote place." And this time, Beijing, which had changed a lot in the years she had left, became her next destination. Yin's parents were very disappointed about her decision, for they hoped she could live in France. "From that time, I always disappointed them, but..." she held up the glass with green mint tea. "I should be responsible for myself, and I should live my life. Right?"

Finding Home in Writing

Yin started to treat writing as a 'job' in the winter of 1999. Half a year after her return to Beijing, she accidentally met some poets at a private party. This meeting guided her along the way to being a writer. At the party, all the poets recited their own poems, which deeply touched her. "I never thought poems were so beautiful and free to express one's feelings," Yin said with pure excitement sparking in her eyes. She then began to write her first poem. At nearly the same time, she tried essays and short novels. "This was the first time I finally found the freest way to express what I want to say, while making films still has to accept limitations."

Although Yin has written full time for only two years, her delicate



Thinking in smoke



Daily life in her friend's house

Wanderings Of a Writer

to be a cool girl who was above things like friends. Actually, the real remedy turned out to be writing diaries or letters to imaginary receivers. "That was helpful," she said. Gradually, Yin didn't feel the need to follow others and grew up as a girl with her own ideas.

In Search of Her Real Self

In 1993, Yin was lucky enough to be accepted into Beijing University, majoring in Western languages and literature. The most meaningful part for Yin of going to such a venerable institution of learning was leaving her family and moving into a student dorm, living a free life and completely making her own choices.

Yin chose French as her major language, while most others took English. "I thought learning English was just a trend, and I didn't like the idea of everyone following the same thing, so I decided to learn something different from others," Yin laughed, seeming proud of her choice.

During her second year at university, Yin moved out to the Yuanmingyuan art village, an village where a number of artists living in near the Garden of Gardens. That was the haunt of painters, nobody poets, and nomadic singers. "I was deeply attracted by the free atmosphere there." When talking about that period, Yin's eyes lit up with excitement. "Most of the artists were too poor to make a good living, but insisted on their own artistic goals." Once, some of her artist friends got themselves into the all too frequent situation of having no money for the next meal, and so for the first time she invited them to her parents' apartment. "My mother made some delicious beef noodles for them. That was a good memory," Yin recalled emotionally. The young girl said to herself deeply in her heart that she would pursue her own goal and live as freely as them.

"In the third year on campus, I fell in love with a German boy." Yin paused for a while, seeming to search for a beautiful memory. A soft melody echoed in the bar, accidentally providing a perfect background music to her story. Before the German boy went home, he asked her to go back with him, but Yin refused. "I had my own life style and didn't want to rely on others, although I felt sad for his departure." She talked about the day she saw off her German boyfriend at the airport in a soft voice. It was a sunny day, she saw him slowly approaching the departure gate, and suddenly, the boy turned round and tears broke out from his eyes. "He cried," she repeated. After so many years, Yin was still moved by the tears the boy had shed for her.

Chasing Dreams in France

During her final year at university, Yin suddenly fell in love with the cinema after watching a French film called *The Lovers on the Bridge*, directed by Leos Carax. "I was just caught by the realistic style in the film." Before graduation when every student was busy looking

depiction, free and frank language have aroused interest among readers. "All my training for writing is from dairies and letters, which, I think, are the deep resources of my present writing."

In the winter of 1999, Yin wrote her first novel. And in 2001, she published her first book *Feel More Comfortable*, which includes short stories, poems, and essays. Yin's stories boldly focus on women's physical and emotional journeys to their homelands. As you begin to focus on her lines, the impression of a direct voice will strike you immediately, especially through the first-person narratives of the work.

Speaking of her writing philosophy, Yin said, "For me, writing is a very personal and relaxing thing because I write in a very free and natural state. I write freely about what I see, hear, sense, imagine, the desires I fudge, my own desires and the desires of others." She lit up another cigarette, and continued, "I am just writing what I really want to say, and don't feel the need to be a role model to the readers—it is just something that's been entrusted to me."

After a year's wandering, and the process of finding herself, Yin has planted a deep root for later writing. She has completely opened her soul and body. She is neither inferior nor arrogant. She is living in a very natural style and enjoys the amusement in writing.

"I really like my present life style," Yin gave a satisfying smile. Every day, she gets up at noon. After lighting a cigarette and making some tea, she turns on her computer to start writing. About 5 o'clock, she calls her friends or receives their calls. In the evening, she spends most of her time drinking and talking with friends in bars. When she is tired of the noisy city life, she leaves for a while, to think by herself. "I went to a small town in Shandong Province and stayed there for two months," she said in a carefree manner. During that time, Yin lived in a little shabby inn, thinking and writing. "I even didn't turn on my mobile phone there," she said.

Time seemed to pass quickly when talking to a woman with so many stories. There was nothing left of the mint tea, Yin glanced at her watch and said she had an appointment with a landlord. She is looking for a rented room. "I like to move after I live in one place for a long time: it makes me excited to go to a new place." She stood up, with a really cool expression. As Yin said, her destination is always in a faraway place.



Packing in anticipation of a new start



Doing that odd bit of housework

By Miao Yajie

This year is the 385th anniversary of the death of the great dramatist and poet William Shakespeare, whose works have been the idol of playwrights and directors for centuries. Dramas by Shakespeare have been adapted under different concepts and forms of art, and have become the most frequently staged and best received classics. It goes without saying that the highlight on Beijing's autumn stage is *Macbeth*, one of Shakespeare's four great tragedies. The *Macbeth* by the Anglian Shakespeare Company from Great Britain at the end of last month may still linger in the minds of Shakespeare fans in Beijing, meanwhile, a complete new version of *Macbeth*, with the name of *The Kingdom of Desire* will come under the spotlights of the Poly Theater from September 26 to 28.

The Kingdom of Desire was established 15 years ago by a group of talented young Beijing Opera performers in Taiwan. Headed by Wu Xingguo, they created a Contemporary Legend Theater with the hope of drawing larger audiences into the theater, at a time when traditional Beijing Opera was dramatically losing its audience.

Those young people, many of whom were university students, formed a bold idea after much conflict of ideas, that is, to transplant the essence of Beijing Opera, derived from culture of the Central Plains of China around 200 years ago, into contemporary theater culture. They picked *Macbeth* for its elasticity of interpretation, and dramatic conflict. It took them three years to arrange and adapt *Macbeth* into an authentic Chinese story, dating back 2,000 years ago. The structure, the plot, the relationship of the characters, and the dramatic conflict are all in accordance with Shakespeare's original.

The Kingdom of Desire created quite a stir when it made its debut in Taipei on December 12, 1986. Since then, the stage opera has been to eight countries and 12 cities around the world, such as Great Britain, France, Japan, Republic of Korea, Holland, Spain, and Hong Kong, successfully staging 50 performances.

In 1990, as the first Asian troupe, *The Kingdom of Desire* was invited by London's Royal National Theatre. Wu Xingguo said that he would never forget the moment when they responded to a curtain call at the last performance. All of a sudden, petals of roses rained down from above the stage, which after five minutes buried their feet in a sea of petals. The audience leapt to their feet and applauded the wonderful performance.

The Times commented that Wu Xingguo reminded them of Great Britain's greatest stage actor, Lawrence Olivier. It exclaimed that Beijing Opera performers are not only actors and actresses, but also singers, dancers, athletes, artists and acrobats as well.

The Guardian said that the play was the best ever mixing of Western and Eastern cultures. France's *Le Figaro* considered it full of beauty and strong

Photo by Zhuang Jian

The Kingdom of Desire

dramatic effect.

At the European Cultural Capital Art Festival in Holland this May, a professional Dutch actor went backstage after the show, holding Wu's hand in his, saying that he wanted to be Chinese in his next life, as well as being a Beijing Opera actor.

Debates surrounding the pioneer play and the renovation of Legend Theater have not died down over the past 15 years.

Some left the theater after only one act and said it was not Beijing Opera; some left after the second act was over, because it was not a stage play; for those who remained in the theater and enjoyed the show to the end, it was just splendid, an extravaganza of perfect melodies and acting of Beijing Opera, of stage art, of magnificent costumes, of symphonic music in harmony with the Opera.

Wu Xingguo, the soul of the Contemporary Legend Theater, the director and star of *The Kingdom of Desire*, said, "What I want, first of all, is to make an interesting and attractive play."

As a versatile persona in Taiwan art circles, Wu has a shining resume that is well known to most fans: his name is always associated with talent and renovation. He underwent professional training at the Fuxing Opera School in Taipei for eight years, and graduated as the

most outstanding martial role of the school. Then he joined the Yunmen Dance Troupe, the most renowned modern dance troupe in Taiwan. But his love for traditional Beijing Opera, plus a sound voice, brought him back to the stage of traditional Beijing Opera. He formally studied under Zhou Zhengrong, one of the four masters of Beijing Opera in Taiwan, to learn

the part of the elderly and upright male character, and grew up to a big box-office draw from 1980 to 1990. From 1992, Wu began to act in films, and won a Best New Performer award at the Hong Kong Film Awards. Most of these movies had famous directors and stars with international fame, such as Chow Yun-Fat, Jackie Chan, Joan Chen, and Maggie Cheung.

Embarking on a range of artistic projects has provided the middle-aged artist with a broad outlook, which is reflected in the design of *The Kingdom of Desire* and other adaptations from Shakespeare and Greek tragedy. "I want to start from tradition, and see how far I can go," said Wu.

London's Evening Standard commenting on the play said that regardless of whether you know Chinese opera or not, and regardless of whether you know Shakespeare or not, you will enjoy watching *The Kingdom of Desire*. Despite the enthusiastic praise the play has received in the past, the charisma of the drama lies in the theater, in the physical sensation of the actor-spectator relationship. To go to the Poly Theater in person, to appreciate the Chinese interpretation of *Macbeth*, is for sure a good choice for a pleasant autumn evening.

Photo provided by Contemporary Legend Theater

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Photo by Chen Shuyi



A Review of Native China —Taishun

By Guan Ming/Mao Guizhi

As soon as I received the new book *Native China — Taishun* sent by Liu Jie from Shanghai, I phoned him to express my congratulations. In spite of the fact that I had known almost every step of the progress of the book, I still felt very excited when I touched *Native China — Taishun* with my own hand. Then came my impulse to write a review for the book, as I can claim to be its eyewitness, or more accurately, an eyewitness of Liu's research on local architecture in Taishun these years.

... In my opinion, the publication of *Native China — Taishun* has, at least, the following three significances: First, it is a summing-up and reward to Liu Jie's many years' research on the local architecture of Taishun.

Secondly, it has a very positive social effect, making more people pay attention to and show concern for the destiny of local architecture. I hope as a result more and more people will join the army of local architecture research, protection and re-exploitation of its resources so as to expand its influence constantly.

In his recent article, professor Chen Zhihua mentions that more people have already joined the army, and those engaged in the study of local architecture no longer have to stumble along, but can stride forward with their chins up.

Third, the publication of *Native China — Taishun* has proved the value of the local architecture of Taishun again, and that the local government and people have truly realized the full extent of their precious cultural heritages, treasures to be exploited one generation after the other.

Native China Taishun



A shrine in a covered bridge, Youcun county

Photo by Li Yuxiang

From the Photographer's Notebook

By Li Yuxiang/Miao Yajie

The idea to make a "Native China" collection goes back as far as 1996. I left my hometown Nanjing that year, under the invitation of Beijing Sanlian Bookstore, and with the intention of creating a National Geographic for China. Later, however, it turned out that the magazine miscarried for various reasons. By then I'd been doing a collection of *Old Houses* for Jiangsu Art Publishing House for many years, and had accumulated a huge amount of first hand data. Dong Xiuyu at Sanlian was keen for me to take photos for them for books on regional cultures. The first place to hit my mind was Huizhou in Anhui Province.

The original name of "Native China—Huizhou" was "Hometown—Huizhou". After publication, the book was broadly accepted and received by various circles, as had been

hoped. Publications of pictures and literary information on regional culture remained for a long time a dark area mainly because of the lack of field research scholars.

As for the photography, I used to take those highly self-consciousness, so-called 'artistic photographs'. However, starting from the Old House collection, I tried to forsake my personal language. I enjoyed the old pictures of China taken by foreigners long ago: all kinds of information of that time could be read from those images. Most of the pictures were not from professional photographers, which to a large extent cast off personal language, but clearly conveyed all sorts of information about people of the time: a picture may excel many of the superfluous description of words.

I was often moved by the

pictures, which was one of the reasons I left the photography circle many years ago. Personally I think emotions should be blended into photos skillfully and invisibly, and because the readers are different from each other, they will have manifold demands. In good picture books, photos are not the notes of the articles: they should keep neither a close nor distant relationship with the words.

Many people ask me whether my work is hard, well, that goes without saying. If people choose something they like to do, 'hardship' is a meaningless word to them.

The collection of "Native China" starts from 1999, and now has published four books, Huizhou, Taishun, Tujia Nationality in Wuling, Ancient Villages in the Middle Reach of Nanxijiang.

Landscape Culture

By Liu Jie/Zhang Chunhai

What the local architecture reflects is the local people's cultural quality and life style. What have affected the local architectural style most are simply the Taishun people's tranquil, natural farming and reading life, as well as their passion for the landscape. It is just Taishun's comely mountains and streams, its simple and natural customs that have fostered its unique landscape culture, arousing great admiration from arbiters of elegance.

... Living in a godly land in the human world, the country literati of Taishun are very keen on the beauty of the mountains, rivers, trees and grass, and treasure them immensely. As intellectuals amusing themselves with farming and reading, they "place their aspiration on the woods and springs," "or sing with the running stream, or go angling leaning on the stone", using their real life and poetic works to express their feelings for the landscape of Taishun.

The winding Jinxiu Vale is just on the Jingu'an Cliff about 3 miles east of Jitou Village, and the stone inscriptions of the "Three-friend Cave" and "Jinxiu Vale" of the Song dynasty still remain there on the rock. According to the records of Guangxu era of the Qing dynasty in the Records of Regions for Taishun, "there used to be a study under the cliff (cliff of the Three-friend Cave), as a lecturing place for the three learners of the Song dynasty, Wu Ri, Wu Taihe and Bao Tian." The "Three Friends" as called by each other, the two Jinshis, Wu Ri and Wu Tai, and the man of letters, Bao Tian, of the Southern Song dynasty, also wrote many excellent poems in praise of the place. The elegant landscape has cultivated the bookmen's unique temperament and cultural features.

Such a temperament is also shown in the style of Taishun architecture. The age-old villages and cottages are plain and simple, yet, very relaxing and roomy.

The local people are good at utilizing the original shape, original nature and original color to make their buildings harmonious with heaven and earth. Many households use unchiseled stonewalling, in a shape of arch, rough and vigorous, standing on the ground paved with big pebbles, thus, the whole village seems to have originated together with the mountain rock from remote antiquity. They like to use the plain-surfaced logs, keeping their original bends, and placing them artfully in a proper position, looking as if all their bends have just fallen into the appropriate place. With their original shape of life, they echo with the trees of the front courtyard and all kinds of life.

As there is hardly any chiseling and carving, the woods and stones have kept their natural state as much as possible; even if there is some processing, it is also from the natural power of the hands of mankind, still giving us a feeling of close affinity with nature.

The forms of the buildings are very natural, too: verandas are where verandas should be, halls are where halls should be, and the light draping eaves freely cover everything that should be covered. The warped roofs look like an eagle's wings striking the vast sky.

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By Hu Xiaoli
In modern China, more and more young people are joining the international avant-garde culture. Rave, which was initiated in the UK at the end of the 1980s, and introduced to Beijing in 1997, appeals to more and more Chinese youth.

Rave in China

The rave party is a kind of wild electronic music get-together, and features electronic music such as Techno, Breakbeat, Drum and Bass, Trip-Hop and Hip-Hop. Raves are usually held on spacious beaches, in docks, warehouses, or small clubs. After 4 years, the scale of such events has rapidly expanded in China. Several DJ groups including 'Cheese' organized by Swiss DJ Michael and Beijing DJ Youdai, 'China Pump Factory' by Weng Weng, and the 'Housesation' by Ben, are introducing rave culture throughout China.

Chinese DJs debut in Zurich

On August 11, 2001, four well-known Beijing DJs, Youdai, Weng Weng, Yang Bing, and Ben with a 30 member rave delegation first appeared in the Zurich Street Parade. The four DJs also made an appearance at the recent rave party held at the Great Wall on June 30 this year, which drew more than 500 people despite the rain.

Zurich Street Parade, together with Berlin's Love Parade, is regarded as the Rave Musical Carnival of the world. With the hottest dance music of Europe and various fancy costumes, the media all over the world focused on the street in Zurich. The delegation from Asia had never shown up at the carnival before. But in this year's parade, a Chinese dragon float with Chinese DJs attracted the eyes of many. With powerful and unique electronic music, they showed the world a fashionable and young perspective of old China. And modern China's young people now look to 1 million western youth and thousands of western media.



Zurich Street Parade



with The World

The first International Youth Carnival in China—Dancing in Yunnan

In order to spread rave to more Chinese people, and to further the friendship between the Chinese and Swiss, Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan province, is going to host a rave carnival called the first International Youth Carnival in China during Chinese National Day on October 1st.

World famous foreign DJs and Chinese musicians will be invited to the event, including Chinese number 1 rock singer Cui Jian and the four DJs who joined the Street Parade in Zurich. Visitors will have the chance to enjoy the video taped Street Parade in Zurich on the spot, and share the biggest and most exciting rave party in China.

According to members of the organizers, rave, which encouraged the spirit of peace, love, unity and respect, will surely give young people a different and new feeling of electronic music.

Quiet Before Musical Storm

By Zhu Lin

From Oct.15 to Nov.7, around 1500 musicians coming from 14 countries will bring vitality to Beijing's stages during the 4th Beijing Music Festival held at the Poly Theatre, Forbidden City Concert Hall and Beijing Concert Hall. With a more professional repertoire and more Western stars unfamiliar to most Chinese audiences, the festival is a test on both itself and the Chinese classical music performing market.

On talking about the repertoire of the 4th music festival, Zeng Wei, senior consultant of the festival committee said, "Hopefully, we won't repeat old pieces frequently heard on Beijing's stages." Of the coming musicians, many of them have never performed in China before. Philip Glass, one of the greatest contemporary musicians nowadays, is the Honorary Artist of the 4th festival. Although he's got great international fame, very few Chinese music aficionados are familiar with his works. Glass has dedicated a cello concerto to British cellist Julian Lloyd Webber for his 50th birthday, and has invited the China Philharmonic Orchestra to make its world premiere during the festival on Oct. 21. Glass is the second musician composing for the Beijing Music Festival besides Krzysztof Penderecki, the Polish composer called "Beethoven of the 20th century". Such an honor has never been bestowed on any Chinese classical music festival. One of today's leading



composers Tan Dun may shock the audience with his "Concerto for Water Percussion" fervor. In this work, Tan shows a total different style from his well-known "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon". Verdi's opera "Nabucco" will appear for the first time in Beijing from Oct. 17 to 19. Incredibly, real horses will step onto the stage as part of the props. Even those famous in China will come up with something new this time. Vladimir Ashkenazy will conduct the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra to perform Smetana's "Ma Vlast". It will be the first time the complete version of "Ma Vlast" is performed in China.

Many Chinese musicians admit that there is 50-year gap between Chinese and European appreciation of classical music. What scary is not the gap, but ignorance of the gap. In Zeng's opinion, a lot of Chinese music fans only know about famous performers from CDs on the market. But in fact, there are many other great musicians. "So the music festival is a good chance to forward your vision, and keep up with the real standards of classical music in the world," he assured.

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Elegance Of A Chinese Dress

By Lydie

One fall, a young woman from Northeast China came to Beijing and enrolled in the Central Academy of Arts and Crafts to study fashion designing. The following fall, in a courtyard house in the suburbs, an idea started to percolate in her mind...

The fall after, the idea became reality, and Mu Zhen Liao, Wang Xiaolin's own fashion company was created. Mu Zhen Liao is a now well-known fashion brand in China, specializing in clothing that features traditional elegance with a contemporary touch. Mu (wood) stands for natural, original and unadorned; Zhen (truth) is for genuine and clear, while Liao (completion) represents the void and wheel of reincarnation.

Nowadays the qipao, or cheongsam, a distinctive traditional Chinese style dress, is enjoying an increasing popularity in the west. They are easy to slip on and comfortable to wear, with a high neck, closed collar and short, medium or full-length sleeves depending on the season and taste. If you are looking for a qipao for a special occasion, you can buy one off the rack at Mu Zhen Liao, or have one tailor-made. They use choice materials and their skilled crafts persons adopt the latest and most creative designs. Prices generally range from around 500 to 800 yuan. As well as qipaos, Mu Zhen Liao offers various other traditional Chinese style clothing, for both men and women, young and old.

Add: Shop 246, 2nd floor, Xin Dong'an Market, Wangfujing Street, Dongcheng District.

Open: 9am-10pm.

Tel: 65281872.

Other stores in Beijing for tailoring Qipao:

Mingxing Chinese-style Clothing Store: 133 Wangfujing Dajie, 65257945.

Huiying Qipao, Dongsi Beidajie, 64033832.

Mingren Qipao Making Shop: 12 Dongdan Beidajie, 65224936.

Beijing International Silk Store: 5 Qianmen Dajie, 63016658.

Aiderweier Fashion: No.311, Xin Dong'an Market, 65276688 ext. 51110.

What's your favorite shop or stand? We will be very happy to share your experience with all our readers and don't forget, a mystery gift is waiting for you if we print your story. Please contact us at 65902524 or 13910916642. Email: jianrong @ynet.com.



Photos by Chen Shuyi

PET PICS



Photo by Lao Qin

By Hydie

Do you know how to tell your dog to close its mouth for a good photo? Most people would no doubt scratch their head when confronted with such a problem. Dogs, no matter how well intentioned and eager to cooperate, are notoriously inept when it comes to understanding orders from humans, whether given in Chinese or English.

But Lao Qin, a professional pet photographer knows. He says you only need to shout, "Close your mouth" at the dog, and it will do so immediately. You see, dogs will concentrate on any sudden noise, and simultaneously close their mouth to be alert. It's quite easy, says Lao Qin.

The only professional pet photographer in Beijing, Lao Qin takes photos of all kinds of pets, whether it is a dog, a cat or even a poisonous spider. It is difficult for me to present my skills in front of these animals, smiled Lao Qin, who always tries to understand what his subjects

are 'saying'. A boy came in one day and asked me to photograph his dying dog. The dog was lying on a bed, with an intravenous drip in its leg. The boy knew the dog was going to die and wanted one last photo as a keepsake. It was a sorrowful moment, and I was completely immersed in the relationship between the dog and his owner.

"Do you believe animals can express emotions?" asked Lao Qin. Not waiting for my reply, he answered his own question. Animals have a greater expression of emotions than human beings. I never believed so until that day I saw the dying dog staring at his owner. That look conveyed more than any spoken words ever could!

Add: Gongtibeilu 27, Dongcheng District. **Open:** 9:30-18:00. **Tel:** 65521176/13601299622.

In the next three issues of Shopping, we'd like to introduce more information about pets, such as pet houses, pet clothing and pet beautifying.

Gear for the Great Outdoors

By Priscilla

Outdoor activities are popular with both locals and expats alike, and there are a number highly regarded outdoor equipment shops in Beijing catering to this market. Black Ant Outdoor is a new addition to the ranks of such stores, and offers a range of labels, some of which are available for the first time here.

Opened on August 18, Black Ant Outdoor is a shop, bar and club all in one. Just off Sanlitun Auto-parts Street (south of the bar street), the shop displays outdoor equipment on the left side, and on the right is a two-story bar. Parts of the floor are littered with round stones. The shop and bar look like a big wooden house. Outside the bar, close to the gate, is a wall for rock climbing. Passers-by can try it out free of charge.

The shop sells outdoor clothing, water bags, climbing equipment, bags, shoes, camping gear and more. Brands include Coghlan's from Canada, which makes all kinds of outdoor equipment such as all-weather emergency bags, survival bags, priced from 20 to over 100 yuan. They have Columbia brand clothing, made by Sportswear, water bottles and bags by Laken, either simply colored or with cartoon pictures on them. The professional equipment includes Black Diamond and



Photo by Su Yan

Wild Country, and bags from Karrimor, and it is Beijing's only shop selling the Japanese NIKWAX water-proofing liquid.

There are also many kinds of books and magazines available for browsing. As a service to their customers, they provide 7 brochures of common sense and useful information for outdoor activities beginners, such as Youth Hostel information, introduction to outdoor equipment, tips for field survival, common medicines, rock climbing and mountain climbing tips and first-aid and rescue techniques (but you should take an interpreter with you).

Black Ant Outdoor organizes outdoor activities every weekend. They are currently offering a 20% discount on all their goods, which will last until mid-October. **Add:** 3 Baijiazhuanglu (白家庄路), Chaoyang District, near No. 80 High School, go south along Auto-parts Street (汽配街), then turn left into Baijiazhuanglu and go about 200 meters. **Open:** 10am-2am. **Tel:** 65067202.

Blue Hat

By Lydie

I wandered into Blue Hat quite by chance, but I so fell in love with this cute store, that I almost forgot I had come looking for a birthday gift for a friend.

Metallic lampshades, blue painted wall, wooden floor and dazzlingly colorful curtains set off the coolest and most fashionable atmosphere of Blue Hat. The store has just about every kind of house ware you could wish for; from candles, incense and antique incense burners, to cane baskets, cool CD shelves, shoe shelves and even telephones. Some small accessories might catch your eye, such as woven bands and leather belts. They have a range of Hello Kitty goods, cartoon money caddies, fashionable cards and so on; and this is perhaps the only place in Beijing selling cartoon South Park figures. For the young and hip, the latest fashions are on sale here; clothes, shoes and bags from HK and Xiamen in amazing designs. Don't worry about lightening your wallet too much if you fill your bag with irresistible bits and pieces; Blue Hat is elegant, but definitely inexpensive, with goods ranging from several yuan to no more than 260 yuan.

Before I left the store I held a black billiard ball with the number 8. The owner said it is a fortune-telling ball, which works by rocking the pyramid floating in the water inside the ball. Of course it will be my friend's birthday gift. Anyway, I made a wish for myself first. You know what it said? Well, the first time it told me "better not tell you now". Then the second time it said "Don't count on it". Isn't it funny? **Add:** Blue Hat, 421 Dongsibeidajie (东四北大街), Dongcheng District, bus 106, 116, 807 to Qianliang Hutong. **Open:** 10:30am-9: 30pm. **Tel:** 64002683.



Photos by Chen Shuyi

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WTO Entry to Stimulate Office Market

Beijing By Dandan

China's entry into the WTO is expected to stimulate the real estate market, especially the office market, although the effects will take time to filter through.

In terms of top-level office buildings, the effect will be seen in the banking, insurance, accounting, legal and telecom sectors. Although foreign-funded businesses are currently forbidden from handling local business in these areas, especially in the banking industry, entry to the WTO will remove or partially remove such restrictions, and companies already established in Beijing will expand their office space accordingly.

No immediate effect

Despite such predictions, any beneficial factors are not likely to have an immediate effect on the real estate market, as the development of suitable real estate will lag six months to one year behind demand.

Take IT development in the latter part of 1999 as an example; its effect on the real estate market was not felt until the first quarter of 2000. It will be the same with WTO entry. Also, the global economy is slowing, with America and Japan experiencing a downturn. Most of the foreign companies in Beijing renting offices are American and Japanese, and the decline of their home economies will have a negative effect on the top-level office market in Beijing. Lucent, for example, planned to rent 23,000 sq. meters of office space in Beijing, but in light of the slowing of the world economy, rented only 11,000 sq. meters.

As for rent, more and more companies are unwilling to pay the high prices currently demanded. The Kerry Center, which has long been among the first choices of foreign companies in Beijing, now faces a decline in its number of customers.

Furthermore, there is currently an over supply in



Pictures by Liu Yang

the office market. From the latter part of this year to the first half of next year, there will be some 800,000 sq. meters of office space coming onto the market, not including previously let office space. Counting all vacant office space, there will be some 1,200,000 sq. meters available, more than enough to meet anticipated demand.

Negative factors become positive

In fact, the negative factors mentioned above could become positive ones. Take the American and Japanese companies as an example. These companies may be unable to find appropriate investment opportunities at home and will possibly transfer investment to other places, such as China, where talented personnel are available, but costs are lower. This will indirectly

affect the development of offices in Beijing; however, the effects would not be apparent within a short time period.

General effect

Generally speaking, WTO entry won't have an obvious effect on the office market in the short term. Some well-located buildings will be rented at a relatively high price, while rent increases will push some companies to buy offices instead of renting them. All these factors will promote the development of office buildings and benefit the market in the long term.

Renting in the East

East Second Ring Road

By Dandan

Today, we look at apartment prices around the east Second Ring Road, from Dongzhimen in the north to Longtan in the south.

Beixinqiao (北新桥)

Prices around here range from about 1,500 yuan for a simply decorated, fully furnished one-room apartment to 1,800 yuan for two room and 2,400 yuan for three room.

More elaborately decorated apartments might cost between 2,000 and 2,200 yuan for one room, and up to 2,500 yuan for two room.

This area includes Dongzhimen, which is famous for its great variety of food from all over China, especially from Sichuan province. It is very convenient to dine out late at night and early in the morning. The downside to this is that it can be noisy late at night.

Dongzhimen is also convenient as a transportation hub, with subway and bus connections to all parts of the city. The average price for one room with simple decoration and full facilities is 1,700 yuan, two room 2,000 yuan and three room 2,500 yuan.

Dongsishitiao Qiao (东四十条桥)

A simply decorated, fully furnished one room apartment costs around 1,500 yuan, two room, 1,800 yuan and three room 2,400 to 2,600 yuan. Better quality apartments cost 1,700 yuan (one room) and 1,900 yuan (two rooms).

There are many office buildings in this part of town. Traffic can be a problem, as Dongsishitiao and Ping'an Avenue are often



Eastern Morning Sun Youth Hostel

Beijing By Dandan

Eastern Morning Sun (Dongfang Chenguang 东方晨光) Youth Hostel is a member of the International Youth Hostel Association. Its stated aim is to satisfy the hospitality and communication needs of young travelers from all over the world.

Located in the center of Beijing on the Avenue of Eternal Peace the hostel is just one kilometer from Tian'anmen Square and the Forbidden City to the west, and Beijing Railway Station to the southeast. Wangfujing subway station is right in front of the hostel, and there are numerous bus connections available nearby. It is only 15 minutes walk to the Air

port Shuttle Bus Station.

The hostel is located in building four of Oriental Plaza, Beijing's newest and largest shopping mall. Wangfujing Xinhua Bookstore is only five minutes walk away, and the Temple of Heaven and Beihai Park are just five minute's bike ride away.

Facilities include a self-catering dining room, reading room, games room, laundry and shop. It has a central air-conditioning system and 24-hour hot water.

How to get there:

From Beijing Railway Station, either take the subway to Wangfujing, and go out the north-eastern exit, or take bus 204 or 205 to Dongdan, or 211 to Dong'an Shichang.

From Beijing West Railway Station, take bus 1, 4, 52, 802 to Dongdan. Price For Youth Hostel members: 2-person room - 60 yuan per bed per night, 4-person room - 50 yuan per bed per night, 6-person room - 50 yuan per bed per night. Non-members: 2-person room - 70 yuan per bed per night, 4-person room - 60 yuan per bed per night, 6-person room - 60 yuan per bed per night.

Add: Dongdan Santiao 8-16, Dongcheng District, B4 Oriental Plaza.

Tel: 65284347 Fax: 65284350



Hotel Special Offers

By Dandan SciTech Hotel Business Floors

The SciTech Hotel is a four-star international standard business hotel with 294 guest rooms ranging from comfortable standard rooms to elegant duplex suites, plus two business floors especially designed and furnished for business guests.

The SciTech Hotel ensures comfort and convenience for every guest. The Business Floors offer additional services such as express check in and check out, free use of 3DDS Internet lines, one free buffet in the Coffee Shop per day, daily newspaper, free incoming faxes, free use of swimming pool, gym and sauna, daily happy hours (17:30-18:30), one article of clothing pressed free per day, and welcome amenities on arrival.

Address: No. 22 Jianguomenwai Avenue, Beijing 100004 Tel: 65123388 Fax: 65123542

Broadband at Swissotel

Beijing Business hotels in the new century require much more than plush accommodation and fancy amenities to serve their guests. They need advanced communications service; the kind of services that business travelers depend on every day to access their corporate networks, to communicate with colleagues, family, and friends, and to obtain vital business information. As a business hotel, Swissotel Beijing is proud to announce the deployment of broadband Internet access for its guest rooms, apartments, offices, meeting rooms, grand ballroom, F&B outlets, Business Center and public areas. Address: Dongsishitiao Qiao Tel: 65012288



Guest Target: Beijing New Century Hotel When: 17:30-20:50, Sunday, September 9th Hotel Detective: Wang Dandan Quiz

Nienke Valen, Netherlands

It is all by chance for me to live here. I just booked a room through the hotel's global booking system.

I did not run across something very big, very great; however, I do remember one thing during my stay here. When I was using the currency exchange in the hotel, the clerk, sorry, I cannot remember her name, gave me the Renminbin, but a little over-used, I mean the paper is not so clean.

Notes in my country are much cleaner, and I frowned. She might have seen my expression and immediately changed a new one for me. It should be a normal thing, but I know the new one is from her own wallet, not the draw-

er! That is something I feel special.

I think it would be better if the hotel can have more money kept in the currency exchange counter, notes more new.

Davu Mark, Lebanon

I have stayed here several times and I like the hotel very much. They already know me and will greet me when I enter the hotel. I like doing the washing myself, so I carry packages of laundry to the laundry room myself.

It is impossible to wash your clothes in the laundry nor watch them washed. I just wait outside to take my clothes back to the room.

Bito Dyanne, Holland

Staff are very beautiful. I like beauties. It is not I like beauties, for example, you take a business talk with your partners down in the lobby, and you will feel better if the staff serving your tea is nice-looking and always smiling.

I have no discrimination to the not so good-looking people. But I think as for the talking atmosphere, people with good facial expression might be of a little help.

"HOUSING" welcomes your feedback: What kind of difficulties do you encounter when looking for housing in Beijing? What kind of information do you need? What can we help you with? Our E-mail: jianrong@ynet.com Tel: 65902522 Fax: 65902525

Dear Editor: I picked up an August edition of Beijing Today, and I saw that one of your writers wrote up a summary of information about apartments near the west Fourth Ring Road.

My situation is that I came to Beijing one week ago, and I will be doing research at Beijing University for one year. I am currently living on campus, but I would like to rent my own apartment near the school. I don't know how to begin looking. Any advice you can give me would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you. Sincerely, Kristen Looney

Dear Kristen:

It is difficult to get a room with 1,000 yuan near B.U. However, you can go to real estate agencies or put ask-for notice on the school bulletin to find a partner to rent a two-room house, which might be around 1,500 yuan. Sincerely, Dandan

Restaurants & Bars

Australian Food & Wine Australian dishes priced from 35-120 yuan. If you spend more than 100 yuan, you'll receive a free invite to the Schiller's party on September 20.

Where: Schiller's 1, opposite Kempinski Hotel, 64619276. Schiller's 2, 1 Liangmahenanlu, opposite Capital Mansion, 64649016. Schiller's 3, west gate of Chaoyang Park, 65931078.

When: now - mid September.

Bella Napoli Opened in May this year, this restaurant offers traditional and authentic Italian food. There is a 25% discount on lunch, except Sundays.

Where: City Hotel, 4 Gongtidonglu, Chaoyang District.

Tel: 65007799 ext. 217.

Pit Stop brings the excitement of Formula One Grand Prix racing to Beijing. Serving American food, a selection of draught beers and creative cocktails, Pit Stop offers live music till late.

Where: 8 Jiangtaixilu (蒋台西路), Racing Bar, 1st floor of Harbour Plaza, Chaoyang District, bus 420, 952 to Lido

Hotel.

Time: 4:30am-2am midnight
Tel: 64362288 ext. 2610

Moon Shanghai This bright restaurant offers all the usual classics conveniently displayed in a menu with photos and English explanations. Many vegetarian dishes available.

Where: 4 Gongtibeilu, through the small alley west of Zhaolong Hotel, next to the Pacific Central Plaza main gate, then follow the signs, Chaoyang District.

Time: 11am-2pm; 5pm-10pm.
Tel: 65069988.

Sampan Seafood Restaurant Daily discount 20% for lunchtime dim sum special. 198 yuan for 2, 398 yuan for 4 and 598 yuan for 6 persons.

Where: 2 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Gloria Plaza (凯莱大酒店) Chaoyang District.

Time: Mon-Fri: 11:30am-2pm, 5:30pm-10pm. Sat & Sun: 10:30am-2pm.

Tel: 65158855 ext. 3155 / 3166.

Exhibitions

Ecuador Art Exhibition

Where: 9 Huizhonglu, diagonally opposite Beichen Shopping Center, Chaoyang District.

When: now - September 16, 9am-5pm.

Admission: 5 yuan.
Tel: 64912902.

Etching Exhibition by Liu Lu and Wu Jingqiu 24-year-old Liu Lu's works are sunny and full of optimism. Wu Jingqiu's works feature the wild scenery of Beidahuang.

Where: Clavichord Cafe, B Tower, 1F Zhongliang Plaza (中粮广场), 8 Jianguomennei Dajie, Dongcheng District.

Open: 10am-midnight.
Tel: 65264145.

Admission: 50 yuan.
Tel: 65598285.



Exhibition by Yan Jiakuan Works featuring the Australian desert and the canyons of western China will be exhibited.

Where: National Museum of Fine Arts (中国美术馆), 1 Wusidajie, Dongcheng District.

When: September 15-20.
Tel: 64016234.

Navy through artists' eyes 50 paintings showing work and life in China's Navy, as well as magnificent views of China's coastal areas and territorial seas.

Where: National Museum of Fine Arts, 1 Wusidajie, bus 104, 103, 108, 111 to Meishuguan.
Time: Fri. and Sat.
Tel: 64016234

Chinese Ink and Wash Painting Ancient art treasures on show.

Where: 9 Huizhonglu, Yayuncun, Yanhuang Art Museum (炎黄艺术馆), bus 108, 317, 328 to Yayuncun.
Time: now - September 16.
Tel: 64912902.



New Work by Lu Peng

Where: Red Gate Gallery, Levels 1 & 4, Dongbianmen Watchtower (东便门角楼), Chongwen District.

When: now - September 29, 10am-5pm, Tuesday - Sunday.
Admission: free.
Tel: 65251005.

300 years of Russian Painting

Where: China Revolutionary Museum, east side of Tian'anmen Square.

When: September 22 - October 7.

Performances

Live comedy The Punchline Comedy Club presents its second show in Beijing featuring stars of the popular TV show "Whose Line is it Anyway?"

Where: Capital Club Athletics Center (京城俱乐部健身中心), 6 Xinyuan-nanlu, Chaoyang District.

When: September 21 and 22, 8:30pm.

Admission: 300 yuan.
Tel: 65881341 ext. 277.



Sorrowful Dawn - Original Opera of China Starring Peng Liyuan, Sun Liying, Han Yanwen. An opera set during China's War of Liberation.

Where: Tianqiao Theater (天桥剧场), 30 Beiwailu, Xuanwu District.

When: September 21-26,
Admission: 80-380 yuan, 800, 1000 yuan box.
Tel: 63030300.



Movies

Italian Movie: Death in Venice Directed by Luchino Visconti, 1971.

Where: Space for Imagination Coffee House, 5 Xiwangzhuang Xiaoqu, opposite Tsinghua Tongfang Mansion, Haidian District, bus 355 to Shuangqinglu (双清路).

When: Saturday, September 15, 7pm.

Admission: 5 yuan.

Tel: 62791280.



Two American War Movies

Enemy at the Gates & Pearl Harbour, 2001. Enemy at the gates, directed by Jean Jacques Annaud, stars Joseph Fiennes, Jude Law, Rachel Weisz and Ed Harris. Pearl Harbour stars Ben Affleck, Josh Hartnett, etc.

Where: China Puppet Theater (中国木偶剧院), 1A Anhuixili, Beisanhuanlu, Chaoyang District.

When: September 15 and 16, 1pm, 3:30pm, 7:30pm.

Tel: 64254798.



4D Movies 4D movie combines visible 3D film with special 4D effects. Seeing is believing!

Where: 4D Theater at Xidan Culture Plaza, 180 Xidanbeijie.

When: hourly from 11:30am to 8pm, Mon-Fri; Sat-Sun, 10am-8:30pm, every 40 minutes.

Movies: Pirate Ship.
Admission: 50 yuan.

Tel: 66030875.



China's First Homemade Horror Film At the preview in Beijing, the audience seemed relaxed during the first 15 minutes, but suddenly burst into gut-wrenching screams. Shanling Ferocious, a giant wild animal in the forest, remember this name!

Where: any cinema in Beijing.

Time: September 20-25.

Weather

Friday

September 14

Overcast to cloudy, showers
Max: 25C. Min: 17C.



Saturday

September 15

Clear to cloudy
Max: 27C. Min: 17C.



Sunday

September 16

Cloudy to overcast, showers.
Max: 24C. Min: 17C.



Monday

September 17

Clear to cloudy
Max: 25C. Min: 14C.



Tuesday

September 18

Clear to cloudy
Max: 25C. Min: 12C.



Wednesday

September 19

Clear to cloudy
Max: 26C. Min: 15C.



Thursday

September 20

Clear to cloudy
Max: 26C. Min: 15C.



We are glad to receive your feedback. If you need any help in your life, you can email us at bjtodayinfo@ynet.com or call 65902522

By Priscilla / Lydie

Tourism Festival

Organized by Beijing Tourism Administration, 4th International Tourism Culture Festival will begin from September 23 to 27. And during this period, lots of activities will give you a good chance to taste the beautiful scenery of Beijing.

Acrobatics Performance in High Air at Yanqing County

Time: now - the end of October.

Where: Longqingxia (龙庆峡)
Tel: 69191020.

How to get there: bus 919 at Deshengmen to Yanqing County, then take bus 920.

10th Festival at Yuanmingyuan

Where: Yuanmingyuan (圆明园), Haidian District.

When: now - October 15.

Tel: 62628501.

How to get there: bus 365, 331, 375, 323, 333 and 726 to Yuanmingyuan.

Going through Simatai Great Wall in Miyun County

10,000 people will take part in this 10 km-long trip.

Where: Simatai Great Wall.

When: September 16, 8am-4pm.

Tel: 69031051.

How to get there: Bus 12 at Dongsishitiao, Xuanwumen, Beijing Zoo and Hepingjie Beikou to Simatai Great Wall.

Picking Fruits Festival at Yunmeng Mountain (云蒙山) National Forest Park in Miyun County

When: now - October 20.

Tel: 61622481.

How to get there: bus 936 from Dongzhimen to Labaigoumen (喇叭沟门), take special bus at Xuanwumen Church.

Music

Dusseldorfer Symphoniker Beijing Tour

One of the biggest symphony orchestras in Germany, the Dusseldorfer has a history of over 400 years.

Program: Mendelson's Overture "Die Hebriden" op.28, Mozart's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, A major, K 291, Schuman's Symphony No.2, C major, op.61.

Conductor: John Fiore. **Violin Recital:** Eric Schumann.

Where: Century Theater (世纪剧院), 40 Liangmaqiaolu, Chaoyang District.

When: September 18, 7:30pm.

Admission: 120-580 yuan.

Tel: 64660032, 64664805.

Chinese & English Famous Songs Chorus

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park.

When: September 16, 2pm.

Admission: 10-30 yuan.

Tel: 65598285.

Gateway to Music 2001 Series

Russian and Eastern European folk songs concert performed by Sound of Spring Chorus, conducted by Qiu Li.

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Beixinhuajie, Liubukou, West Chang'an Avenue, Xicheng District, bus 7 to Liubukou.

When: September 15, 2pm.

Admission: 10-30 yuan.

Tel: 66057006.

Death metal band "Back Garden"

From Wuhan, Back Garden is a metal music band with Chinese characteristics! On the same bill Chen Shi and Purple Loop (both death metal) and Ordnance Office (thrash).

Where: Get Lucky Bar, Taiyangonglu, east of the south gate of Beijing University of International Business and Economics (经贸大学).

When: September 15 and 16, 9pm.

Admission: 30 yuan, 20 yuan for students, free for people who bring their instruments and 'communicate' with Back Garden.

Tel: 64299109.



Sports & Activities

Autumn at the Great Wall A BBQ lunch party will be held to raise money for sick children.

Where: Juyongguan Great Wall.

When: Saturday, September 22, 11:30am-4pm.

Admission: 300 yuan for adults (free drinks), 150 yuan for children under 12 (free soft drinks). **Transportation fee:** 50 yuan for a round trip / person.

Tel: 65905566 ext. 2202 or 2121.

Calligraphy Class Chinese Culture Club will hold a two month calligraphy class starting next Thursday evening. A professional

calligrapher will teach basic brush skills, how to write characters, their meaning and relation with Chinese culture. English narration provided.

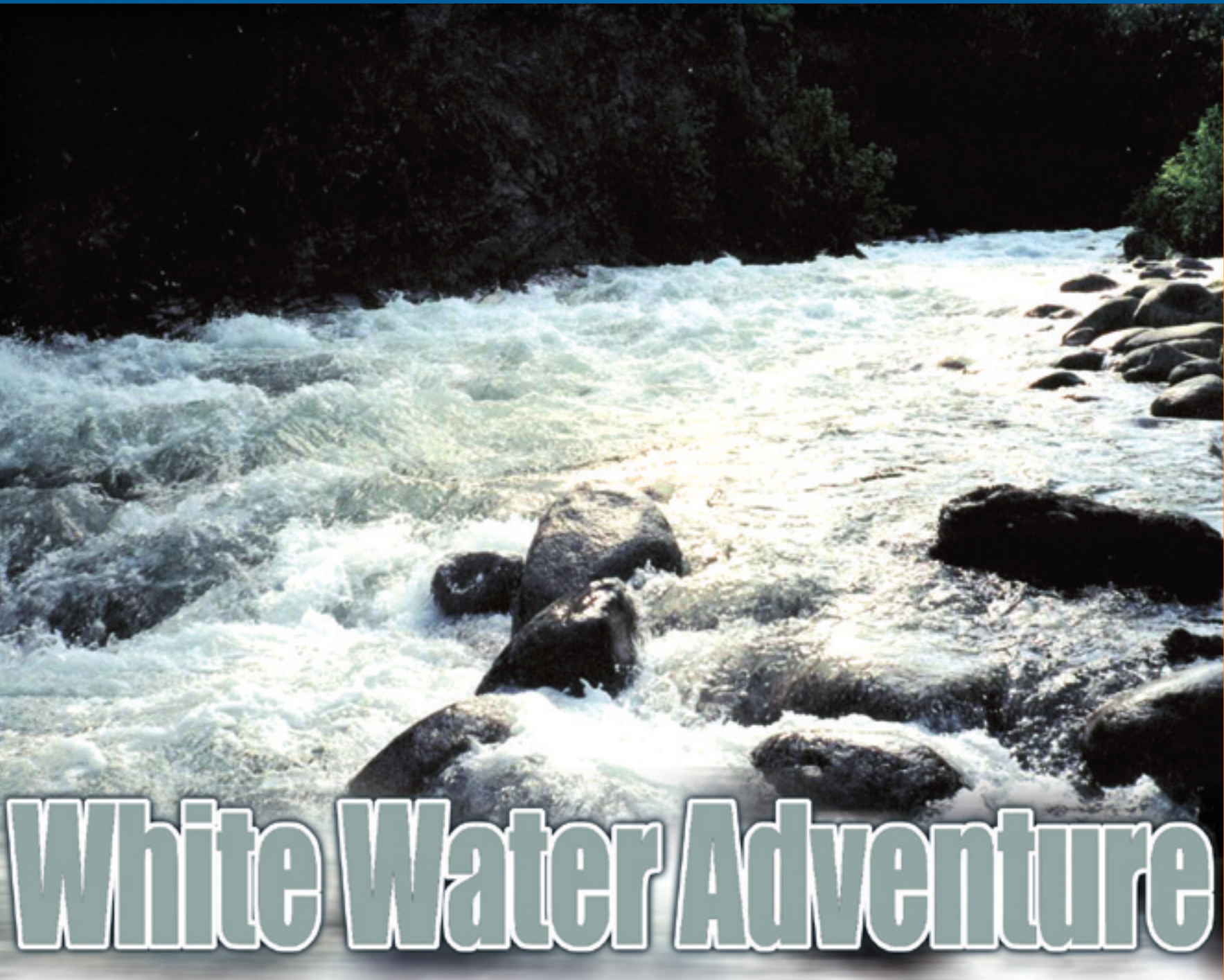
Total fee for eight classes: 250-300 yuan, depending on class size. Please R.S.V.P in advance in order to ensure a place.

Where: Beijing Friendship Association with Foreign Countries (Beijing Duiwai Youxie), Nanheyuan Dajie (南河沿大街), west of Wangfujing Street, Dongcheng District.

Time: September 20 to November 15, 7pm-8:30pm.

Tel: 84622081 or 13501035145 for details.

Email: beijing_beat@hotmail.com.



White Water Adventure

By Jason

There are numerous places in the mountains to the west of Beijing where one can enjoy a quiet bit of fishing, as well as many other aquatic sports. I have tried fishing, swimming and hiking in the western mountains; this time I wanted to have a go at rafting.

Driving along the mountain road, I had to brake abruptly, because I didn't want to miss the beautiful scenery here. The green mountains and the roaring water created a scene that seemed ideal for rafting, just as I had imagined.

"It's a wonderful thing, we will be carried to the destination simply by the flow of the water, with no effort of paddling," I told my two companions authoritatively, and they nodded skeptically. The woman at the ticket office, rather pointedly it seemed to me, failed to endorse my optimistic prediction.

Having put on the life preservers we had been issued, we followed her to our inflatable raft that was waiting for us in the water.

We sat down in the broad bottom of the raft and the woman released the mooring rope, shouting, "Try to keep to the center of the stream". Though we tried to paddle out to the center, we failed. First, we didn't know why we should do so; second, we couldn't seem to make any headway against the great force of the current.

However when we came to the first bend in the river, we discovered why we should have followed the woman's instructions. Our way was completely blocked by several huge rocks sticking up out of the rushing water.

I looked around to find that there were far fewer in the center. Oh well, I guess this is part of rafting, I figured.

"How do we get out of the rocks? I asked. "Push against them with your paddle."

That seemed like a good idea, so two of us pushed with our paddles, and the third, who hadn't been entrusted with a paddle, pushed with her hands.

"We're moving"! Someone shouted delightedly. And mistakenly. We all looked back over our shoulders, only to find that after ten minute's of intense efforts, we were still in exactly the same position.

"The paddle is awkward to push with, we should all use our hands," I suggested and we tried again.

This seemed to work a little more effectively, and we managed to move a little way back against the rushing current.

At that moment, the water came over one side of our raft suddenly, soaking our clothes.

"There's a leak in the bottom, the water is coming in"! I shouted, looking for a hole in the bottom of the boat.

After having confirmed that there was in fact no leak, we found we were again wedged against the rocks. No matter how we tried this time, we couldn't move our raft at all. So we stopped trying and sat quietly watching the water rushing by. "Should we phone for help?"

"That's a good idea, did anyone write down their number?"

Of course, no one had written down the number.

We agreed at this point that it was no use trying to move the raft ourselves, so we decided we might as well enjoy the beautiful scenery surrounding us.

"They will come to see what has happened to us eventually ... won't they?"

Unwilling to commit myself on this one, I took out my camera and began taking photos of the mountains and water.

"What's wrong"? A voice came from behind. We looked around to find our savior approaching, steering his raft with ease around the rocks that had so effectively ensnared us.

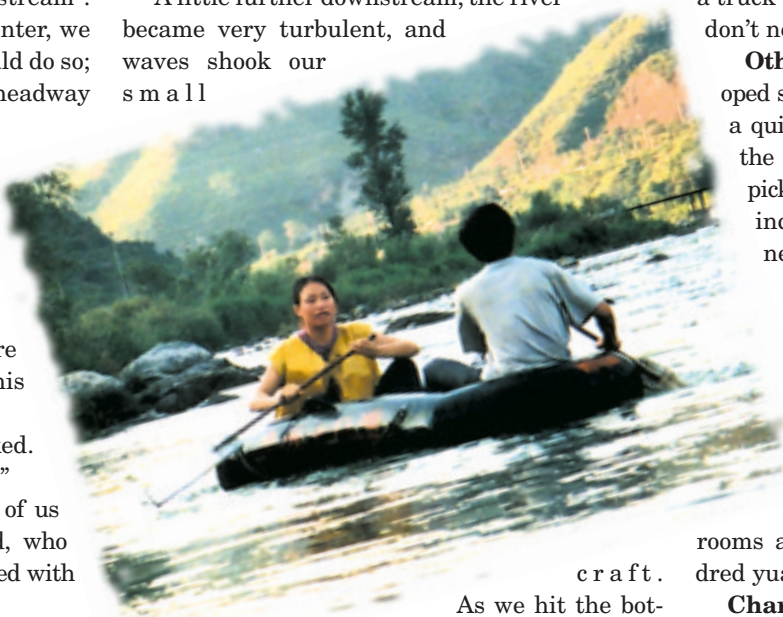
"You're coming to rescue us?" We asked eagerly.

"We cannot wait for you any longer, we want to go home tonight"! Apparently he was complaining. But we were so grateful we didn't mind at all.

He fastened a rope to our raft, and one of our companions got into his boat. A few minutes later, we resumed our journey.

Once we had safely passed the rocky area, he untied the rope and let us navigate ourselves.

A little further downstream, the river became very turbulent, and waves shook our small



craft. As we hit the bottom of a trough, water again poured into the raft, and one of my companions jumped up to avoid being doused.

"Sit down, or your raft will capsize." The man warned us, and as if to prove him right, our small raft began swaying violently from side to side.

My companion sat down in fright, her face pale. "Oh, I should have stayed at home this afternoon!" She cried.

After rounding another bend, the water again became calm. The sun warmed us and dried our wet clothes; the white clouds drifted over the steep mountains on either side, and the water brushed gently against our raft.

"I can see fish in the water," my friend said pointing, recovered and composed once more.

Ten minutes later, we arrived at our destination. Standing on solid ground again, we appreciated how good a peaceful life is. However, we were all very satisfied with our wild water adventure. For a few hours, I had completely forgotten about the office. This beautiful afternoon became even more beautiful for the excitement it had brought us.

Where: Eighteen Pools scenic spot (Shibatan

Fengjingqu 十八潭风景区), Wangpingcun (王平村), Mentougou (门头沟) District

How to get to Shibatan:

By bus, 929 from Pingguoyuan (苹果园); b car, take Expressway 109;

By train, no. 815 from Yongdingmen (永定门) Tel: 61833074

Tips:

Don't take a very expensive camera with you, as there is a good chance that it will end up in the river!

The canoes are best suited for two people.

Keep to the center of the river!

If you are inexperienced in the art of canoeing, you can have a guide accompany you.

Though the water is not deep, do not get out of your canoe to push it free if you become stuck. The rocks are very slippery and you may sprain an ankle or worse.

Before you set out for a day's rafting, call the administrative office to make sure that there is a sufficient flow of water.

When you arrive at the downstream base, a truck will take you back to the ticket office; you don't need to walk back.

Other things to do: Shibatan is a well-developed scenic spot. You can fish there, if you prefer a quieter day out, or if you want to experience the life of the local people, you can go fruit picking at Meiping (梅坪) Garden. The fruits include apple, peach, apricot, pear, and Chinese date.

Tel: 61859509

You can also hike through the scenic spot. The entrance is opposite the ticket office, on the other side of the river. There are many pools, and you can also find a waterfall named General Waterfall (Jiangjunpu 将军瀑).

Accommodation: there are two rooms available. Shower is supplied. One hundred yuan per room for one night.

Charge for rafting: 110 yuan per boat.

Admittance to Shibatan scenic spot: 10 yuan per person.

Other scenic spots nearby:

Jiuyuan Farm (Jiuyuannongzhuang 九园农庄)

The springs and ancient relics here are very famous in the Wangping region.

Tel: 61859464

Mountain Lake Island (Shanhudao 山湖岛)

You can fish here for silver carp, grass carp, big head and crucian.

Tel: 61851396

Coiling Dragon Villa (Panlongshanzhuang 盘龙山庄)

A variety of local dishes are available here. Entertainment includes karaoke, billiards, table tennis, badminton, chess, fishing, swimming, boating. Sauna is also available.

Tel: 61851364

If you have any bright ideas for great days out around Beijing, we'd love to hear from you. Please send any ideas, photos, itineraries to us.

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Bicycle Tours



Main entrance to Dongyue Temple
Photo by Chen Guangzhong

Dongyue Temple Beijing Folklore Museum

By Chen Guangzhong/Jason

Dongyue (东岳) Temple, near Chaoyangmen, was founded in A.D. 1319. It is the largest Taoist temple in north China, and was set up by the Zhengyi Sect to worship Emperor Dongyue.

The layout of the Dongyue Temple features a complex of ancient buildings that incorporate the style of corridor-courtyard and one-story buildings typical of the architectural styles of the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties. The temple is noted for its "Three Manys", that is Many Statues of Gods, Many Couplets and Many Stone Tablets. There are 76 groups of statues creating a vivid picture of folk beliefs through various postures that dramatize social life and different individual personalities.

The magnificent hall standing in the north of the main yard is Daiyue Hall (岱岳殿), where sacrifices were offered to the Emperor Dongyue. The Emperor Dongyue was said to be the god that decided each individual's destiny.

A big Chinese scholar tree standing in the south of the yard is as famous as the temple itself. It is said that the tree long pre-dates the Dongyue Temple. For this reason, it is also called the Long Life Tree and Blessing Tree. According to legend, long ago when the Emperor Dongyue left the temple, the top of the scholar tree would be capped by cloud, and a white crane would hover over it. If a person could circle the tree three times then and then tie a red cloth to it, his life would be prolonged.

The numerous stone tablets stored in the temple serve as important materials for the further study of folk beliefs and social structures. An outstanding example is the "Taoist Stone Tablet", bearing the calligraphy of Zhao Mengfu, a famous calligrapher of the Yuan Dynasty.

Yude Hall (育德殿), standing behind Daiyue Hall was the sleeping quarters of the emperor and empress when they stayed here. The two halls and the corridor connecting them form an 'H' shape, a typical characteristic of Yuan dynasty buildings. Statues of the four heavenly kings and the three rulers can be seen in Yude Hall. The Ruler of Heaven granted blessings to the people, the Ruler of Earth forgave them their sins, and the Ruler of Water helped people out of trouble.

The Dongyue Temple now also functions as the Beijing Folklore Museum, and has hosted many exhibitions. Worshippers always ask for blessing from the Emperor Dongyue. This is done by tying a piece of wood bearing the name of the recipient to the incense burner and desk before the statues.

In the west courtyard is a jade horse, which was said could grant people peace in life and success in their occupation. On the steps of the Daiyue Hall is a cube-shaped stone named Little Golden Ball. The stone contains traces of copper, which reflect the sunlight. It was said that people who stepped over the stone would be granted great wealth and eternal blessings.

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Open: 9am-4:30pm daily except Mondays

Admittance: 10 yuan per person

